

6th August 1946]

DR. U. RAMA RAO :—“ Sir, are we having supplementary questions or a regular debate? ”

SRI B. BHEEMA RAO :—“ May I ask whether the Hon. the Minister proposes to introduce compulsory primary education in any part of the Province this year? ”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ The question does not arise, Sir.”

SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ May I ask, Sir, whether even in the separate Muslim schools in An̄hra Desa the text books are all in Telugu? ”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—
“ Notice, Sir.”

II.—ELECTION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

[Note.—An asterisk(*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member].

* MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I have to announce to the House that the following candidates have been nominated for election to the House Committee :—

Sri B. Bheema Rao.

„ S. Jayarama Reddiyar.

„ M. Narayana Menon.

„ T. Purushotham.

Mrs. Mona Hensman.

Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib Bahadur.

As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, six, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the House Committee.

“ In addition to the above, under rule 143 of the Madras Council Rules, I nominate the following two members to be Members of the said Committee :—

Mr. K. O. Anthoni.

Sri H. M. Jagannatham.”

III.—ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

* MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I have to announce to the House that Sri G. Venkata Reddy is the only candidate duly nominated for a seat in the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. I hereby declare him duly elected.”

IV.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1946-47.

* SRI B. BHEEMA RAO :—“ Mr. President, let me have the first privilege of addressing the House on this occasion.”

AN HON. MEMBER :—“ You are not in the Opposition.”

* MR. PRESIDENT :—“ If Mr. Bheema Rao is not anxious to speak first, I would like somebody on the side of the Opposition to speak.”

[6th August 1946]

* SRI B. BHEEMA RAO :—“ I am quite eager to speak first, Sir. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Ministry on behalf of the two districts of Bellary and Anantapur in which Prohibition has been introduced this year. Sir, I was born in the district of Anantapur and I spent half of my life there and I have now come to Bellary. I need not say how glad I feel and how the electorate of these two districts feel and have asked me to convey their thanks and gratefulness to the Ministry for having introduced Prohibition there. I leave it to my hon. Friend, Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar, to convey thanks on behalf of the Kurnool district from which he hails.

“ Well, Sir, there has been some acrimonious controversy in regard to the further extension of Prohibition and in spite of the great difficulties that are facing them, the Government have been kind enough to introduce Prohibition in these four additional districts. I need not say but we have heard it from people who were associated with this Prohibition movement in Cuddapah and Salem how it led to the improvement and the economic uplift of the people in general. I need not take more of the time of the House Sir, on this subject. I convey my best thanks to the Government on behalf of the districts I represent.

“ Associated with this subject and not less important than this is the introduction of compulsory elementary education. I do not want to embarrass the Ministry, Sir, because they have introduced a large measure of reform in my district. But I think it is time that they should think of the introduction of compulsory elementary education in some areas of some districts. We know, Sir, that in the Nizam's Government they have introduced or are about to introduce compulsory elementary education and our districts border upon the Nizam's dominions, in some places only the Tungabhadra separates us from his dominions, and when people find that

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—“ May I point out to the hon. Member, Sir, that there is compulsory elementary education in this Province in every district. Particular areas are being taken every year and this year also many villages have been taken up. I think there will be about 1.70 lakhs of school children. I am speaking from memory Sir, and I am subject to correction.”

* SRI B. BHEEMA RAO :—“ Sir, the number of villages that have been taken up for the introduction of compulsory elementary education is extremely limited. So far as the Bellary district is concerned they have introduced compulsory elementary education in five villages. We have got 975 villages in our district. This year they propose to introduce in six more villages. I heard a report in one of the Teachers' Conferences which was held in the summer of this year in Bellary that there are 300 villages having a population of more than 500 people in which there is no school at all and there are about 200 or 250 villages in which the population is less than 500 and which have no schools. Altogether half

6th August 1946] [Sri B. Bheema Rao]

the district of Bellary has no elementary school. I think this is a position which is not very happy. Perhaps the position is different in other districts. I am not aware of the conditions in other districts, but when I find that Prohibition is introduced in our districts I should like compulsory elementary education to come. This is one of the schemes adumbrated by the Postwar Reconstruction Committee and I only wish the Hon. Minister for Education to take up this scheme in hand.

"I may mention for the information of the Hon. Minister for Education that there are several villages in my district, where the people are prepared to come to his help; they are also prepared to furnish buildings and meet any expenditure that may be incurred in the first two years. They are prepared to advance money as mentioned above. They are so anxious to have a school in their village. I wrote to the Secretary of the Education Department and the Director of Public Instruction as to the procedure that I should follow in this connexion and I have not had any reply. I only ask the Hon. Minister to consider this and to see that when people are prepared to come forward to advance all the money required for the first two or three years, these schemes are taken on hand.

"Associated with this subject there is another thing. I had occasion to preside a fortnight ago over a meeting of the teachers convened in our district, Bellary. I feel, Sir, that the salaries given to them are absurdly low. I do not use the word offensively against anyone. I may mention, Sir, that I was once a teacher. Forty years ago, after graduating, I became a teacher on Rs. 30 a month. I felt that I could not get on in that profession and I bade good-bye to that and came to the profession of Law. Therefore, Sir, I have a soft corner for the teachers when I find that their present salaries are quite inadequate and I hope that the Hon. Minister will evolve some scheme, of course not in the present Budget, but in time to come, for raising the salaries of these teachers to a decent level. (At this stage the Deputy President took the Chair.)

"There is another question on which the students in Madras have appealed to me. They find it very difficult to get accommodation in hostels. I put some supplementary questions in regard to some evacuees in whom I am interested. They are some of my distant relations, and their children have come from Rangoon and they find it very difficult to get hostel accommodation. I did my best. In none of the hostels could I get any accommodation. I find that the Hon. Minister is making some efforts to secure the Doveton College for housing about 500 students."

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :— "I may announce to the House, Sir, that the Civil Lines near Tambaram has been acquired for the purpose of accommodating students as a hostel."

* SRI B. BHEEMA RAO :— "The premier colleges in this City, as well as the Educational authorities think of this subject

[Sri B. Bheema Rao] [6th August 1946]

only at the time of making admissions in July but afterwards they never think over the matter. I want to bring to the notice of the Minister the slackness of the Educational authorities and the difficulties that are felt by these students in getting accommodation in hostels."

* DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I take it, Sir, that the hon. Member means the Government Educational authorities."

* SRI B. BHEEMA RAO :—" I feel, Sir, that from now, extension of buildings may be had on the beach adjacent to the Victoria Hostel to house in the first instance all those who study in Government Colleges. Let not these young men be sent to Triplicane or Park Town or Georgetown to live in crowded localities. Let them have some decent habitation wherein they can study properly and graduate. I do not want to take up any more of the time of the House. Finally I want to convey my thanks to the Ministry once again for the introduction of Prohibition in my district."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I am sure you did not call me from this side under the impression that I am in the Opposition, because I happen to sit here. At the outset let me refer to a few considerations not wholly pertaining to the Budget discussion but having a bearing on the question of Prohibition which seems to have been agitating friends here and elsewhere. In doing so, I do not know whether I will be in order if I refer to certain things which have appeared in the press of doings elsewhere, but not in either of the Houses of the Legislature. I see that a very extraordinary procedure was adopted by the Congress Party to discuss the Budget before it was presented to any of the Houses. As one writer called it, there was a ' Budget rehearsal.' I do not think it is fair to the other Members of the Houses who do not belong to the party in power that one party alone should be taken into confidence regarding what they call Budget secrets while others should be kept in complete darkness. It is not also proper. As a matter of fact, if the party which has come in a majority wants to have things in its own way, then why call for the Legislature at all? The Ministry can be the executive of the party in power, they can lay down the policy and ask the Ministers to carry it out and the other sections of the Houses can be completely ignored. What we expect the Ministry to do is to hear all parts of the Houses on the policies they proposed to follow. Whatever they may do in secret conclave, so far as the public is concerned, we would like the Ministry to hear all sections of the Houses. Once the Ministry accepts office it does not belong to one party. It is the Ministry of the Government, which rules not only the members of the party to which it belongs or the voters who returned the members of the party, but all the people, whatever may be the party to which they may belong. Any measure adumbrated by it affects every section of the population. I wish, Sir, that the courtesy had been shown to both the Houses of the Legislature before the party in power was taken into confidence.

6th August 1946] [Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao]

I was very pleased to see that the Hon. the Prime Minister himself seemed to have recognized this fact at one of the party meetings. I do not know if the press report is correct.

“ Sir, we are all interested in party Government. Whether we like it or not the Government of this country will have to be run on party lines as far as things look as they do at present. We do not want these reports of party meetings to appear in the press. (Hear, hear.) We do not like that. We have every respect for the Ministry and the party which they represent. I do not know how *verbatim* reports appear in the press. They look so undignified and not only that, certain members of the party even rush to the press ventilating their grievances. I do not think, it is an honour to the party or to the leaders whom it has put in office to indulge in such things. Once they belong to a party and feel that party Government is to be run on proper lines, leaders whom they have put in office should be given every respect due to them. If they have any differences, they must solve them among themselves instead of bringing them to the forum of the public press. We feel, Sir, that these grievances ought not to have been brought to the press. As one writer put it in a paper, these bickerings over Prohibition seemed to be symptomatic manoeuvres against present leadership. By all means, let them fight for leadership among themselves, but let not the public be worried about their differences. (Sri B. Bheema Rao : ‘ It is not so. ’) I do not want to pursue the matter further.

“ Then, Sir, we come to Prohibition. Every one will agree that no one in any part of the House is against the introduction of Prohibition. When in 1943 the Advisers regime wanted to do away with Prohibition at the instance of Sri C. Rajagopalachariar I sent up a long memorandum pointing out that the income from the taxes specially levied to make up the loss in Excise revenue should be ear-marked for Prohibition only and that no part of it should be utilized for ordinary current expenditure. Any Government, Sir, is morally bound, whatever may be the party in power, whether it is the Advisers regime or the Congress Government or the Justice Party in power, any Government is morally bound to utilize the taxes imposed for a particular purpose only for that purpose and they have no right to utilize them for any other purpose. What is the present position, Sir? The Advisers regime began very well at first. They announced that the excess income, that is the excess yield from commercial taxes over the cost of Prohibition, would be put into a Revenue Reserve Fund. The words used are : ‘ So that it might be at the disposal of a future Ministry for expenditure on any measures which it might desire to introduce at once. ’ That was in 1940-41 when the prospect of a Ministry coming into office was not yet ruled out. But as the prospect of the ‘ future Ministry ’ coming into power receded into the background the Government of the day changed their ways and they changed their opinions too. They decided not only to use the surplus from the commercial taxes for ordinary expenditure but also draw upon the Revenue Reserve Fund which they had set apart in

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [6th August 1946]

1940-41. They also went one step further and effected a reduction in the General Sales Tax. They repealed the Sale of Cloth Act. These are their words. They say 'with the object of limiting the net proceeds of the commercial taxes as nearly as possible to the equivalent of the loss of the Excise revenue.' But in 1943 they increased the rate again though there was no Prohibition. While abolishing Prohibition they undertook to increase the rate of the General Sales Tax from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 per cent. Those of us who believe in Prohibition have a right to ask any Government that comes into power about the proceeds of the commercial taxes and why they have not been put to the use for which they were raised.

12 noon. "Nowhere in the Budget the words 'commercial taxes' appear. They are put under 'Other taxes and duties' which are made up of all kinds of other taxes over which we have no claim for use for Prohibition. I would like the Ministry, as much is made of the use of the commercial taxes and perhaps rightly too, that the proceeds of the commercial taxes should be ear-marked and to see that an account of commercial taxes which are meant for the purpose of making up the loss in Excise revenue, is separately kept.

"Then, Sir, what is the Revenue Reserve Fund? In 1940-41, the first year in which the then Government were so concerned about the future ministry, the Adviser regime put in Rs. 59 lakhs in the fund. As I said, afterwards their policy changed. Till 1943-44, they did not put anything into the reserve fund. In fact, as I already said, they drew upon it. They put in Rs. 71 lakhs in 1943-44 and in 1944-45 when the income from commercial taxes was very large owing to the increase of sales-tax from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 per cent, they put in Rs. 1,239 lakhs into the Revenue Reserve Fund; and in 1945-46, they put in Rs. 1,750 lakhs. Altogether, according to the accounts presented, there is in the Revenue Reserve Fund a sum of Rs. 3,119 lakhs. The Hon. Prime Minister in his speech has said that it is Rs. 3,140 lakhs. I do not know how it is; anyhow, it is more than Rs. 3,100 lakhs. My point is: all this trouble that is going on in and outside the Houses can be set at rest if an account of all the amounts received from the commercial taxes is made up separately and the loss sustained on account of loss in Excise revenue due to Prohibition is also made up and the balance is arrived at. Then, whatever is available from commercial taxes after meeting the administrative charges as well as the loss in Excise revenue, might be kept apart as a fund to be utilized only for the purpose of promoting Prohibition. I think the public is perfectly justified in asking for it. I am against the Ministry drawing Rs. 8 crores from the Revenue Reserve Fund which does belong to the Prohibition account and it should be utilized to promote Prohibition alone; not a pie of it should be taken for the ordinary general expenditure. In doing so, they are committing the same mistake as the Adviser regime committed. I want the Ministry to make up an account of the commercial taxes. By all means, debit all the losses that you have incurred on account of losses of Excise revenue, then arrive at the figure and fund if

6th August 1946] [Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao]

and go on drawing upon it only for the purpose of promoting Prohibition. I think it is perfectly right that there is a public demand for doing that. But instead of doing that, the Hon. the Prime Minister has announced yesterday that Prohibition will be extended to four more districts. It may be if these accounts are made up that he will be able to satisfy the clamour of some people to have Prohibition extended to the whole Province. But I would like him to examine the question; at any time he can announce his policy; there is nothing to prevent it. I feel all are morally bound to see that the income from commercial taxes the burden of which the people are cheerfully bearing is utilized for the purpose for which it is intended. I would like the Hon. the Prime Minister, as I said, to examine the question before he gives effect to a suggestion he seems to have thrown out that he would have to increase the sales-tax for the purpose. It was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in the first instance, then reduced to $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent and from $\frac{1}{4}$, it jumped up to 1 per cent. If it is to be increased, it should be only after a strong case is made out that the available money in the reserve fund is not enough to carry out the policy of Prohibition. If he makes out such a case, I am sure any rise in the tax people will bear, as they have willingly borne from 1939 onwards though no Prohibition existed in the Province during all these years continuously. So much, Sir, about a controversial point. We want at the same time to assure the Ministry that if these things are done, either in this House or anywhere else, everybody will fall in with the policy adopted by the Government.

“ Then, Sir, the Hon. the Prime Minister was good enough to refer in the course of his Budget speech very feelingly to the poor economic condition of the tract to which I belong, and threw out a suggestion that the existing agency to promote the economic rehabilitation of that area should be strengthened, and should be provided with a high-powered executive working directly under the Government. May I request him, Sir, to give effect to this as soon as possible? Sir, I have been a member of the Ceded Districts Economic Development Board since its inception; and I have felt that unless anybody set up works directly under the Government, much cannot be done to promote the economic interests of those districts.

“ Then, Sir, I would like to refer to irrigation relating to those districts. What has been happening is: most of our rivers take their rise in Mysore territory; some of them go through the Nizam's Dominions. Mysore is trying to bund and take waters from those rivers and His Exalted Highness the Nizam also is trying to provide irrigational facilities for his subjects; but somehow the Madras Government is touchy about the treaties they have entered into with Mysore and the other States. While those Governments do not care as to what the treaty rights of the Madras Government are, we seem to care too much for them. Another fact is that these treaties were entered into at a time when some of the officials were common both to Mysore State and to the British area; but the

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [6th August 1946]

time has now come when those treaties have to be revised. Unless that is done, there is no scope for the economic development of the Ceded districts.

" Sir, there are only three points more to which I would like to refer. One is the case of the non-gazetted officers. When I put the question to the Hon. the Prime Minister, Sir, about the report of the Salaries Committee, I thought I made it clear that the hon. Members of this House as well as of the other House would like to possess a copy of the report and see how that question, that vexed question of improving the conditions of the non-gazetted officers, had been dealt with by the Salaries Committee appointed by the Adviser regime. Unfortunately, Sir, my wording seems to have given a loop-hole to the Prime Minister not to circulate the report to the members. However, having been placed on the table of the House, I am at liberty to make reference to it. The Salaries Committee, as the Hon. the Prime Minister announced, was appointed to do a very important work, to deal with the conditions of service, and pay of a section of people who are contributing most for the conduct of this Government. I was surprised, Sir, that the Hon. the Prime Minister, when a deputation waited on him, said that the Budget was already framed and nothing could be done. Sir, has not Prohibition been extended from 4 to 8 districts after the Budget was framed? Cannot the same consideration be shown to the non-gazetted officers? That apart, that is a matter in which I appeal to the sentiment of the Prime Minister. Here is a report which makes very modest proposals which involve only Rs. 116 lakhs, and which tries to assist a section of the Government servants who have been very hard hit owing to the war and the consequent increased cost of living. I expected, as soon as this Government took up office, that first of all it would tackle this question; because upon the contentment of their staff depends the efficacy or the efficiency of enforcement of any measures they may undertake. An Excise peon or a Police constable on starvation rations cannot be expected to put into effect, without becoming corrupt, any measure of Prohibition which this Government may introduce. You must keep him above want, above a desire for grabbing; you must make him as far as possible contented. I am surprised, Sir, that the present Government have not at all paid any attention to this question. Should these servants also be compelled to adopt the weapon that the postmen and others have adopted? Look at the figures of the postmen's wages and look at the figures of the non-gazetted lower-grade clerks' salaries. It is shameful that we should maintain this section of our Government servants under such low conditions. I expected the Hon. the Prime Minister to take this up as the first thing when he took up the framing of the Budget. The Adviser regime—they were wise—appointed a committee which produced a report; they put it into the archives of the Secretariat and said 'Well, let the popular Government tackle it.' Here is what one of the Advisers, Sir Hugh Hood, is reported to have stated 'He emphasized the point that there was considerable discontent among the services in regard to the scales of pay adopted

6th August 1946] [Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao]

in 1932-33 as a retrenchment measure when the Government revenues were at a low ebb and that something must be done now to improve their pay and prospects.' Then again, Sir, the Salaries Committee suggests that they should not wait for a long time to go into the basic scales of wages but that immediate effect should be given to increases proposed as the lower-grade salaried servants were suffering. May I again appeal to the Hon. the Prime Minister? I find from newspaper reports that no reference has been made to these lower-grade employees in yesterday's reply of the Premier, except a reference to the teacher, to which subject I would also refer presently. A peon on Rs. 12 is unthinkable in these days. I am sure the recommendations of the Salaries Committee will be examined by Government and orders passed as quickly as possible in order that these lower-grade staff may not be also driven to the extreme necessity of declaring strikes or the Government declaring lock-outs.

" Then, Sir, I come to the improvement in the status and emoluments of the teachers. I wish the Hon. Minister for Education had given more attention to this aspect before he thought of introducing any other reform in the educational system. What can a poorly paid teacher do? How can he carry out all the reforms the Hon. Minister wants to introduce? As a grace, Sir, Rs. 2 increment is allowed and Rs. 4 increment is allowed. Is that the way these teachers should be treated? This question was gone into by a Post-war Reconstruction Committee which the Adviser regime appointed and the decision of that regime is put down here : ' An essential preliminary to all educational schemes is the elevation of the status of the teaching profession which is now deplorably low.' ' It is proposed to spend about Rs. 9 crores in bringing the pay of all teachers, by whatever agency they are employed ' —I emphasized in that committee too—there should not be any distinction as it now exists between teachers employed in Government schools, teachers employed under local bodies and under aided institutions. All should be treated alike; I submit, Sir, that all alike should be treated in the same manner and under whatever agency they are employed they must be given the minimum wages recommended by the Committee. I have yet to know from the Hon. the Minister for Education how he proposes to implement this decision or the recommendation of the previous regime and until that is done there is no hope of any educational improvement in our province and what we are at present doing is, we are simply tinkering with the problem. At present an S.S.L.C. trained man gets only Rs. 18, instead of Rs. 16. This is not sufficient. Is it all an S.S.L.C. worth and is he able to get the balance that he is entitled to from the management? Have we taken care to see that the management discharges its responsibilities towards this low-paid staff?

" Then, Sir, I come to what in the other House they have been called ' block grants '. There is nothing intrinsically wrong in making block grants, because that does not mean that Government will spend such amounts as they liked. I would like you to

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [6th August 1946]

treat them like the Rural Water Supply Fund. A fund has been set apart and I have no objection to it. But I think this decision to create a grant for Harijan Uplift seems to have been arrived at late because some of the good schemes sent up by the Labour Department which were accepted by the Adviser regime and included in their Budget have been omitted in this Budget. I think one of them is for the extension of the activities of the Labour Department to all the districts in the presidency. Only one lakh twenty-eight thousand was provided and the Adviser regime agreed to it. They felt that the existence of these officers to look after the interests of the Harijans was absolutely necessary as by comparison with the work turned out in the districts in which the staff was employed, they felt the other districts also needed and they provided for it. For some reason this provision has been deleted. I quote this as one of the instances. What was the need to deny a few lakhs of rupees for the uplift of Harijans? How this Fund is to be utilized we do not know, but I hope, as every other scheme submitted to Government, all the schemes will be examined and grants given. There are certain routine items like this which I wish they had not omitted from the revised Budget.

“Then, Sir, I come to the next point. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture, I wish, had evolved a policy. After all, these controls help only to the extent we have the material in the district. When there is no grain to distribute, any system either of rationing or other control is bound to fail. I expected, Sir, the Hon. the Agricultural Minister's Budget to show some long-range as well as short-range policy in order to improve production. I feel, Sir, that it requires and I understand it requires a great deal of trouble and knowledge of the problems in order to formulate a policy. But, knowing as I do, the Hon. Minister for Agriculture, without any study, because I know he had his own problems before he became the Minister for Agriculture, he could have evolved an agricultural policy. The British Government have recently announced a policy which in effect is intended to be a drive to produce more food, as Britain also is dependent on other countries for it.

“Sir, I think I have taken up enough of the time of the House and I have not abused the indulgence which you are pleased to grant to members. You permitted us to take as much time as we require. Before I sit down, I do wish that this Revenue Reserve Fund question and its allotment for Prohibition are taken up so that there is no room for bickerings of any kind in any part of the House or outside.”

* MR. R. W. THEOBALD :—“Mr. President, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government on the Budget that has been presented to us. I can say it is a very good one on the whole. I feel, lay people do not realize what burden of responsibility must rest upon the people to-day who are public-spirited enough to take up the reins of Government. The Hon. the Prime Minister and his Cabinet have taken up the reins of office at a very very difficult time and also at a time which will be recorded in history

6th August 1946] [Mr. R. W. Theobald]

as a time when things started to improve. From this dark beginning of food shortage, I believe that things will be set in motion which will be for the lasting and permanent benefit of this Presidency. It does not mean that after thinking about these things very carefully, there are not some suggestions one would like to make. I am sure that the Government will realise that so far as we are concerned, suggestions are made as suggestions and whether or not they are accepted, the Government have our very best wishes for the success of their onerous duties.

“ First and foremost, I should like to say that when I was a boy I was taught a hymn, as one would say in this country a lyric, and it ended with these words, ‘ Have courage my boy to say No ’. I want to pass these words on with all humbleness to the Prime Minister. (Laughter.) He has drawn from the Revenue Reserve Fund to balance his Budget. Let us give due thanks to the previous Government for leaving that Fund. Sir, I was here at the end of the last war—there was a period of great prosperity—which was followed by a period of intense adversity, I felt that history will repeat itself. If I were a betting man, I would put odds on that history will repeat itself when the Hon. the Prime Minister will have to look round for money. Now, Sir, he can tax people, nobody likes taxation. I hate it, but it is for the good of the country. Our advice is that the Government do meet their present liabilities by present taxation and keep the reserve for bad days that will inevitably follow. You cannot have the colossal spending that is taking place to-day—colossal circulation of money without the ebb. I will finish these remarks with some words I have read in proverbs this morning ‘ He who accepts advice is safe, he who will not be warned is in danger.’

“ Sir, this Government is doing exceedingly well; Madras of course usually leads, on the question of rationing of foodstuffs. But the burden of the people who are responsible for feeding all the millions of this Presidency must be at times intolerable. The question of whether ships will arrive in time, even now the question that is disturbing certain people is whether they will get enough gunny bags to put the foodstuffs in when they arrive. I do feel and the House should also feel that we should express appreciation of the efforts of the Government. So far as my party is concerned we are at the back of them to give them all the help we can.

“ Now, Sir, I would like to ask whether it would be possible for the Government, whether the Prime Minister could arrange it, to educate people like myself to understand a book like this—‘ Budget.’ I do not understand, I say it quite frankly the secrets contained in it. I would add that myself and some other intelligent men sat round a table and tried to find out exactly where the money that has been allotted to wells could be found. We could not find it. I think Dr. Dodwell or some other officer of his department should come and give us some lessons to enable us to understand the details of the Budget. I would be extremely pleased and I think probably other hon. Members will also be pleased.

[Mr. R. W. Theobald] [6th August 1946]

With regard to wells, Sir, last holiday I visited a village—who does not like holidays?—I went round the countryside—but I may say I did not ask for extra petrol for this—I saw quite a number of wells being sunk. But what I want to suggest to the Government is this. There is no doubt about it that the ryots and people who are producing food are now better off than they have ever been in the last 20, 40 or even 50 years. Is it right I ask that the rest of the people of the Presidency should pay for their wells. Provided they get water from the wells, they will be amply repaid. Cannot this money be given to them in the form of a loan instead of in the form of a gift—I may be wrong but I feel that the future wells sunk should be on the basis of loans.

“ Now, Sir, I am in rather great danger because the speaker before me said that there is no one who will disagree with prohibition. I am a black sheep. I do, I am a person who has never drunk. I am very keen that people should be as I am. But I feel myself that prohibition is out of date. The Government want to abolish drink by the imposition of its will on the people. Hitlerite Germany told the Germans what they should read, what work they had to do, almost what food they had to eat and so on. Is there no other way of getting what we want. I personally feel there is. Prohibition will save a certain number of people from misery. It will mean that certain families have more money to spend but there will ever remain a certain number of people who want to drink who will be made criminals. I saw from this morning's papers that in the other House, a member of my group asked whether they in India would succeed where China, America or even Bhopal in India failed and the answer according to the paper was a haughty ‘ Yes ’. Now, Sir, I cannot square this belief with other statements about the people of this country,—statements with which I very heartily agree, i.e., that Indians are very much like everybody else and that there is no superiority of west over east and I therefore think that a man in India who wants his drink is no different from a man in America who wanted his drink. You know that even in the days of prohibition they got their drinks. What happened. Money went into the hand of boot-leggers instead of the Government and people got rotten drink instead of good drink. The same thing will happen again here. I would say that it would be better to have total prohibition throughout the Presidency if you are going to bring it in at all rather than start with eight districts, because in the adjoining districts people are going to drink. So, Sir, while you save some people from drink, you let others drink.

“ Sir, in the Administration Report under the head Prisons, Borstal schools and Senior Certified schools, it is mentioned that there was a fall in the prison population due to the abolition of the Prohibition Act. Sir, during the war, at very short notice, we were instructed by the Government to move our workshop from the harbour to another site out of the danger of Japanese bombs. I considered 80 miles to be sufficient and put our workshop down at Katpadi. Believe it or not, Katpadi was a prohibition area but the

6th August 1946] [Mr. R. W. Theobald]

main trouble I had with my work people in the first year was with drink, and later on, when prohibition was repealed, I had no further trouble. I am not saying this because I am against the policy of the Government; I think it is shocking to see people spend too much money on drink. I am entirely with the Government in their desire to save the people from this evil. I would however say in the words of the great Mahatma Gandhi 'It requires a change of heart and you cannot force people into being good, you cannot even legislate people into being good. You have to educate them and give them something better to do'. Many years ago, I was foolish enough to propose, in no other place than the European Association in Madras that total prohibition should be the aim of all civilised states. I am here to-day, so you can see I was not killed. Prohibition was then the live issue of America. More than half the people of America wanted prohibition and it failed because there were always people who wanted to drink. Sir, I do not know—I am rather afraid that you cannot go back on what you have already done—but what is the alternative? I am against destructive criticism. Can I give you some constructive ideas at the time of the debate I have just mentioned. I turned my eyes to a publication called the 'Whitaker's Almanac'. I wanted to see how many drunkards there were in my country. When I was a little boy, I was frequently oppressed with the sight of people who were roaring home fully drunk on Saturday nights but since 1919, England to all intents and purposes—you in this country may not believe it—has been a very sober country, an exceedingly sober country. I may say that during my last three or four leaves in England I have never seen a drunken man. This state has not been brought about by prohibition but by giving the people something better to do. Here is my suggestion for what is worth. Keep your toddy shops going; but improve them. I would like to take the Minister along the Marina, to a toddy shop. It is a disgraceful place. Start with transforming the people and give them a chance to clean themselves. Have along with the toddy, food, coffee, tea, and have people who will teach those people who go there for drink that it is much better for them to drink tea, coffee. I think you will thus wean away some people from drinking toddy. If you want, you may try it in some districts. Try it in one of the toddy shops and if you want anybody to help you in this matter, I am a volunteer. Now, Sir, these are my ideas about prohibition and I give them for what they are worth. I feel it is a very great experiment and I wish you all success but I am sure it will be a failure. One last point. You have lots of people who support prohibition, some are very close to you and they want to make money out of it. Boot-legging is going to be very profitable. I want to impress on the Government that an alternative Government is not now a Governor's Government but another party Government. You have got your enemies also who will make the most trouble they can out of the introduction of prohibition.

“Coming along to the firka system, I feel it has immense possibilities. If you have the right type of officers, if you can

[Mr. R. W. Theobald]

[6th August 1946]

instil into the people that they are not little tiny units but big ones and if you merge them together, I believe, you have the germ of a very successful experiment. But here again, I may add one word of warning. Do not regimentate this effort. Make it an effort of co-operation and leadership of the villagers and do not try something that they do not want to do. There is nothing that I can congratulate the Hon'ble Minister more than his remarks on education. For many many years, we who have an interest in the country, all of us, have realised that Universities have been turning out Graduates like sausage machines. They are turning out men with petty ideas half-baked ideas and they are not of the calibre to make full use of such opportunities as the members have to offer. They become clerks and very low-paid subordinate officers. First of all, I would like to touch on the question of Engineering colleges, because I am talking here about something I know a good deal about. What this country sadly lacks is not Bachelors of Engineering but the right type of artisans, the men that can go out into the country. In Europe, Germany, France and England, if a man says that he knows his job, he has got to know his job from A to Z and he is worth his weight in gold. It is not the starting of a number of Engineering Colleges that is required, but you must have places where young intelligent men can be made into intelligent work people. There is no denying the fact that there are brilliant exceptions but yet Indian work-people are still far behind their brethren in the West and that is, because they do not get opportunities to go and be taught. If a man in England wants to be a good turner he has to go and be taught for years and years and he gets a training that is invaluable. It was that which made it possible for England to put through this enormous war effort. India sadly needs this. What I would ask you is to have trained workmen rather academic workmen. Believe me, Sir, that many times I have had occasions to come into contact with Engineers, men I would love to give jobs, but literally from my point of view, they know nothing. The same is the case with the arts and other educational institutions. We want practical men and practical women and we want a general all round education. As regards medical colleges, I am sure that we are all agreed that we want in India better doctors. The difficulties against men and women after finishing their college courses are so enormous that they tend to disregard all the elementary rules of cleanliness and the necessary precautions which go to make operations satisfactory. I feel strongly in regard to this matter, and would suggest that all doctors with only very few exceptions, should be made compulsorily to go through a refresher course at least once in two or three years.

“ Sir, in regard to public health, I feel the Prime Minister has been exceedingly modest. He has got a lot of vitamin pills, but I hope that they will not be put to use, because I trust that the food position is going to improve. But there is this question of Malaria. In the Sudan, an Inspector can go round a house and if there is water stagnant, he can fine on the spot. Here it cannot

6th August 1946] [Mr. R. W. Theobald]

be done, so easily. Malaria is a great killer in the East. Here we are all agreed that mosquitos should be removed. I think it is commonsense that a law should be introduced to provide that people who encourage the growth of mosquitos should be punished.

" I was very disappointed that the Government have treated the Highways Department, if I may say so, in such a shabby way. They make a choice between electricity and irrigation. Sir, Irrigation and Electricity are vital needs because members from all parts of the House are asking for grants for this or that, Government must start more remunerative enterprises if they are to remain solvent. Highways are remunerative, but indirectly. Irrigation and Electricity must go hand in hand and the money that is to be spent on them should be spent at once. There are many tanks to be repaired before the next monsoon. There are, I believe, on the books of the Engineering department schemes that could be put in hand at once, whereas Government talk of prohibition in the present tense. I notice from the Prime Minister's speech that the ' future ' tense is used when he talks about Irrigation and Electricity. I hope he will use in the word ' present ' tense for these schemes also. May we not get on with schemes that are already on the books. Money must be our slave not our master. The Prime Minister can borrow to-day at very cheap rates of interest and my advice to him is to borrow up to the hilt and get on with remunerative enterprises.

" Almost finally, I have something to say to my friend, the Minister in charge of Local Administration. I am delighted to hear that Government have decided to give them more rope. When I was in the Corporation we wanted to open a coffee bar shop, but Government opposed it. What is the use of having a Local Administration Department if for every single thing we have to go to Government for previous approval. Let us give the people some chance of showing their ability. I would like the Government to give them a chance. If they do silly things they must pay for their faults. If you do this, local administration in this Presidency will improve a hundred per cent.

" I am afraid the Hon. the Premier has been unkind to people like myself engaged in trade and commerce. I would like him to see some of the balance sheets I have to deal with and he would realize that it is not all cream and butter and that there is a lot of sweat and tears. Nevertheless, I do feel that the Government can help forward the trade of this Province. The Government have already stated that this presidency has got to embark on an enormous programme of progress. I have been here for about thirty-one years and the Province is much the same as it was at the beginning. Let us hope that by the time we get to 1950, this Presidency will be quite a different place.

" Sir, in closing, I would like to touch upon the cloth problem because it has a bearing on the scheme that the Government have in mind. Local mill cloth to-day is about twice the price it was in 1939; but local hand-made cloth is five to six times the price it was in 1939. I would like the Minister in charge to go into these

12-45
p.m.]

[R. W. Theobald]

[6th August 1946]

figures and find out where between one and two crores of rupees per month of excess profit are going. I suggest that prohibition of the racketing in cloth market will mean a very great deal to the man and woman who have to buy cloth.

“ Finally, Sir, I would like to say at the end as I have done at the beginning of my speech that these suggestions are worth examination. I believe it is worthwhile to try my ideas for the removal of the drink evil in a small area and to see how it works. If you can get what you want without converting some people into criminals, it will be well worth while.”

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Mr. President, I submit Sir, that discussion on the floor of the House are made for the kind consideration of the Treasury Benches. In making our observations, we trust that they would be considered and replied to. You will kindly see from the presence of heaps of files on the tables that when they are engaged in disposing them of, they can do justice neither to our pleadings nor to the files.”

* MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I am sure the Hon. Ministers must be framing their replies.” (Laughter.)

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ In this connexion, Mr. President, I would like to invite your kind attention to a ruling in the Central Legislative Assembly in 1930 which reads :—

‘ It is wholly out of order for members on official benches to read or do anything with files unconnected with the matter which is being discussed on the floor of the House.’

I submit it will amount to discourtesy to Members to be looking into files while discussions are going on.”

* MR. PRESIDENT :—“ We do not know what the files are; all the same I take note of that respectable ruling.”

* SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAYUDU :—“ I would like those Members who are absent from here to come here and be doing the same things that have kept them back from attending and at the same time be present in the House, listening to debates.”

* LIEUT.-COL. K. R. K. IYENGAR :—“ Mr. President, at the last meeting of the Council on the 31st July, you were kind enough to give a ruling that written speeches were not to be encouraged. Would you, Sir, relax it in my favour. Owing to old age and loss of memory, I would like to make frequent reference to my extensive notes.”

* MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Yes.”

* LIEUT.-COL. K. R. K. IYENGAR :—“ Mr. President, while congratulating the Hon. the Premier on the Budget, may I put forward a few constructive suggestions? In the first place, the block grant of four crores of rupees is a sore point which has been discussed in the newspapers and also in the other House. I say: ‘ Why this block grant when you have not got the scheme ready?

6th August 1946] [Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar]

You are thereby showing a budget deficit of nine crores of rupees. You are taking from one reserve fund and crediting it to another.' My suggestion to the Hon. the Premier is that he must take a token grant and when the scheme has matured he can get a supplementary grant.

" An expenditure of seven crores of rupees has been shown under State Trading Schemes in the last paragraph of page 5 of the Budget Memorandum. This is an expenditure caused by food shortage and should not be borne by the tax-payer for the particular year. It is an extraordinary liability just like war expenditure and must go to capital account. I, therefore, suggest that this amount be removed from the revenue account and put against capital account. There is some reason given in the Budget Memorandum for not doing so. But my contention is that this is not a regular expenditure and is in the nature of an extraordinary expenditure incurred during war. I am only putting this as a suggestion from a humble amateur in finance; I do not consider myself an expert in financial matters. I leave it for the consideration of the Hon. the Premier whether this could not be done. If he does so, he will have a surplus budget.

" One more point which I want specially to bring forward is the question of commutation of pensions. The previous Congress Government stopped it because they wanted money for better purposes; the Adviser's Government brought it in and now the people's Government have allowed it to stay. I suggest that this fifteen lakhs of rupees provided for commutation of pensions should be made use for better purposes and ought to go. I think it is wrong in principle and it is not in the best interests of the Government servants themselves. It will not ease inflation. It is hard on the Government which has to meet many extraordinary demands both for staff expenses and expenditure for control of food and cloth and trading charges to meet the food situation. Commutation of pensions should be stopped and thereby fifteen lakhs of rupees would be saved for some better purpose.

" Now I come to the all important question of prohibition. I am an ardent prohibitionist. I have been in the Nilgiris for the last six years and I have been spending my money and time in touring the whole of the district doing propaganda for prohibition. You know, Sir, drinking is very rampant in that district and the people of that district might not like my saying so. I have gone to interior places and addressed many meetings where more than three to four thousands of people assembled. I have explained to them the evils of drink and asked them to make a solemn promise by raising their hands that they would never again visit a toddy shop. They always raised their hands with much enthusiasm but this was at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. In the evening at 5 o'clock, I was still there doing propaganda work and even reminding them of their promise; but what is the use? At that time, drink came foremost in their mind. My suggestion to the Hon. the Premier is that, the tendency of the people being like that, any scheme of partial prohibition will not be a success. You are having a dual system.

[Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar] [6th August 1946]

In one place, you have prohibited drinks of any sort but in another area, perhaps at a distance of 20 or 25 miles, you are selling your arrack and toddy shops to the highest bidder, perhaps making as much money as the two districts put together. A man addicted to drink will go fifteen to twenty miles to have his drink. So, Sir, my fear is that this scheme of prohibition in eight districts will not be a success. I know the Hon. the Premier has been kind enough to extend prohibition to eight districts when the Budget provided for only four districts and I am sure if people carry on an agitation, he will double it to sixteen in the next budget year. We must put pressure on the Government; the people are all behind us. They will pay taxes if increased taxes are found to be necessary to meet the deficit. So long as you are not going to tax the poor, there will be no objection to additional taxes being levied. It is wrong in principle to allow the poor man to drink and go to the devil. Even before the financial year is over, I would like to put this for the consideration of the Hon. the Premier. They have come as far as Coimbatore and adjoining it is the Nilgiris district. Do kindly introduce prohibition to that district also. You will lose some money by way of excise revenue but that is worth losing. If the Hon. the Premier will come to Coonoor as my guest, I will take him on a tour of the whole district and show how appalling are the conditions rampant there as a result of this evil. There is also this question. Coimbatore goes dry. How will it be possible for you to prevent drinks being smuggled from Nilgiris into Coimbatore unless you put Police guards for every train and every bus. You must not also forget that the drinker will go even 20 to 25 miles to have his drink. I appeal to you to take courage in both hands and introduce prohibition with one sweep. In asking for this I am only pleading for my own countrymen; I am not considering the case of Europeans. We may give them as much drink as they like. You see that is only foreign liquor and being our guests for the period of their stay here, let them have the things they are accustomed to; but let them pay the taxes on it as we require them for meeting the deficit caused by the introduction of total prohibition. If they would join with us in our endeavours to make the country completely dry, I would bow to them and welcome them to join us with folded hands. It will be well if it comes about. Otherwise, we will have to think of good sources of revenue by means of taxing imported liquor. I feel, Sir, that so far as this Province is concerned, you cannot have prohibition in certain areas and sell drinks in other areas. So far as these two areas are like this, it is only partial prohibition and it is only waste of money and time. I would suggest that it be stopped and total prohibition is introduced throughout the Province. There is the other question. We must look upon the whole Presidency as one family. You must not say that some of the members of the family might drink while others must not. The Government must take courage in both hands and introduce at once total prohibition for the whole Province. It is your duty to fulfil your election pledges. I hope you will find ways and means of finding alternative sources of revenue, if you are not to draw from the reserve fund built up by the Adviser Government. It is common knowledge, Sir, that what Madras thinks

6th August 1946] [Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar]

to-day, the rest of India think to-morrow. I am sure the Hon. the Premier can find other sources of revenue either by increasing the sales tax or by the nationalization of transport or even of the mills which have been making fabulous fortunes all these years. In this way, they have a hundred and one ways of meeting the loss in excise revenue. After all, what is this Excise revenue? It is an ill-gotten wealth to the Government. You are all robbing the poorest of the poor and you are using it as revenue on other items unconcerned with the poor people. I appeal to the Ministry to take courage in both hands. The whispering ruffle that this campaign for total prohibition is all concocted to cause trouble to the Ministry, is not genuine; no one wants to cause embarrassment to the Ministry. Do you mean to say that the 120 or 130 members who signed the appeal to Prime Minister to introduce total prohibition were prompted by misguided motives? No, Sir. Many of them are ardent admirers of the Premier and therefore they will support every measure of his. Therefore my appeal to him is not to impute motives to those who take a different view of things. All of us know, 130 persons have signed a representation for introducing prohibition in the whole province. I will be the 131st to sign it. You are allotting 4 crores for village reconstruction. What more then do you want than the introduction of prohibition in those areas? Our aim is to give them a happy home life. 1 p.m.

“ Next I come to another point. I do not see the hon. Minister for Public Health here. I see from the newspapers that Government are out to establish Ayurvedic colleges in four or five places in the presidency. Sir, they have brought an expert, not a medical expert but a legal expert (laughter) to advise them. He was in the services of the Mysore State till now. He is brought and asked to tour the presidency and give us an idea as to where we should start colleges. This province is not wanting in medical experts. We have in this chamber itself an expert, who is not merely a doctor but a good educationist, I mean, Sir Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar. There are others also who can give valuable advice on the subject. Of course we are not on Government Benches. I am afraid Dr. Rajan will not be able to give proper advice; but Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar and myself will be able to give independent advice, because we have honest motives. (Laughter.)

“ Why not refer to High Command the question of introduction of total prohibition in the province and get the blessing of Mahatma Gandhi. Before you assumed office, you asked the High Command not to interfere, because it suited your business. When you don't want anything to be done, you conveniently shelve it by telling ‘ Ask the High Command.’ Surely nobody is going to prevent the good cause of prohibition being undertaken.

“ Now, I see the Hon. Minister in charge of Public Health in her seat, and I wish to deal with Ayurvedic Medicine for a few minutes. I do not want to say anything in her absence as then she would get to know about what I say from newspapers only. Ayurvedic school of medicine seems to be the topic of discussion of the day.

[Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar] [6th August 1946]

“ May I put before you the possibility that one among us suddenly becomes ill? What would you like to be done to him? I can answer for myself. I would like all steps to be taken to cure me as quickly as possible—including any method or medicine known anywhere in the world. Suppose the condition is put forward that only such measures can be taken as were known to and practised by my grandfather or great grandfather, regardless of whether anything more efficient has since then been found out by somebody not related to me, what would you say? I know what I will say—I will prefer to be treated by the most efficient method available, even if it has been found out by a stranger or even an enemy. I do not know whether there will be anybody here prepared to lay it down that because X-rays were discovered by a German, Röntgen and radium by a Polish-French lady, Madam Curie, tuberculosis in India should not be diagnosed by X-rays and cases of cancer in Indian males should not be treated with radium. No doubt this sounds rather foolish. And yet, we are to-day seriously proposing to spend large sums of money on developing a system of medicine just because it was in use in ancient India. Scientific medicine to-day has nothing national or racial about it. It seeks to use the latest advancement in any field of knowledge, regardless of whoever finds it out of wherever it is first discovered. It is thus merely the application of any Science—physics, chemistry, bacteriology or physiology—for the purpose of alleviating, curing and preventing human suffering. If there is any outstanding medicine whether in Ayurveda or in use by a quack, it is prepared to give it a trial and if it finds the remedy efficient, it is prepared to make it official. Once this basic fact about scientific medicine is grasped, it becomes utterly impossible for anybody to understand the existence of rival systems of medicine.

“ I would like to have some clear cut answers for the following questions. Is it seriously put forward that Indian medicine (meaning by that term Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems) in its present state is equal to scientific medicine, wrongly labelled Western medicine, in ability to cope with the complex problems of prevention of disease and treatment of sickness in this great continent? Thus for example, are the practitioners of these systems to-day in a position to examine candidates and assess their physical fitness for service in various strenuous occupations like the Indian Army of to-morrow? Have they any recognized method of examination which is common to all their exponents? Can they examine blood, urine, motion, etc., of patients with a view to using such findings in diagnosis and treatment? In the absence of an exact knowledge of human anatomy and physiology, do they feel competent to examine an injured man in a medico-legal case and give an authoritative opinion? In the event of finding, by X-ray examination or some other delicate and reliable test, conflicting with such an opinion expressed by them, on which is the court to place reliance? Have they any ideas as to how to arrive at the cause of death when they are faced with a dead body? These may sound trivial objections to some. But I can assure you that we are introducing a whole host of complications affecting varied walks of life by having rival

6th August 1946] [Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar]

systems of medicine, all recognized by Government. In the field of public health, without a knowledge of bacteriology how can they tackle the question of combating epidemics of typhoid, small-pox, cholera and even diseases not at present known to them like yellow fever. How will they proceed to set down standards for and examine, samples of water for bacteriological and chemical purity?

" I do not think that even the most enthusiastic supporter of the cause will find courage to say that Indian medicine is now in such a position. The next suggestion will be that it can however be improved and brought up to such standards. How? It can be done only by willingness to accept modern scientific ideas as correct and basing their action upon the advances in basic sciences like chemistry and physics. If that is granted, then, what is the difference between such a system and the present scientific medicine? If on the contrary they are not willing to accept modern science, what are the methods by which they propose to 'improve' Ayurveda? I would like to have definite and clear cut details about such schemes, if any, before agreeing to vote large amounts of the tax-payer's money for such a purpose. It has been suggested often that research should be undertaken in Ayurveda; I do not know if even those who suggest this have got a correct understanding of what they mean by this. Research entails experimentation and observation using apparatus and methods often of great complexity. Without a scientific back ground of education it is impossible to carry on such work. Observations or more often impressions obtained in the course of clinical practice in hospitals or outside by practitioners, may possibly lead to research and through it, important findings, but such clinical impressions or opinions, valuable as they often may be, do not by themselves constitute research. If however by this suggestion they express themselves as willing to put to the test of experiment, as understood by modern scientists, the principles and tenets of Indian medicine and the efficacy or otherwise of their remedies, it is a most welcome sign; because it then means, in the long run, the merging of Indian medicine into the broad stream of scientific medicine.

" Unfortunately, there are some voices to be heard advocating the study of what they call pure Ayurveda, undefiled by such foolishness as anatomy or pathology. They point out that our forefathers managed with that only and what was good enough for them is good enough for us. But if that argument is held valid, then we should not use synthetic fertilisers in agriculture. We should stick to the bullock, buffalo and horse for transport and give up trains, buses and aeroplanes. We can comfortably give up all schemes of hydro-electric development and take to oil lamps only for illumination. By such methods, we will be making ourselves, as a nation, a museum exhibit of what life was hundreds of years ago. I am not sure that that's what all of us want the future India to be.

" Yet another view put forward is that Scientific medicine is no doubt effective, but it is costly while Indian medicine is cheap and is easily available to the villager. Once it is conceded that scientific medicine is more effective, I do not think there is any point in counting the cost. It is false economy. Besides, the contention that

[Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar] [6th August 1946]

Indian medicine is cheap is fallacious. (1) Medical fees : I cannot say anything about the Ayurvedic practitioners of olden days in this respect but the present day exponents of the system do not seem to me to be the least bit cheaper than the allopathic doctor, e.g., personal experience of the Vaidyan from Kottakkal. Even they are cheap now ; once you insist upon their having, after a preliminary S.S.L.C. or Intermediate education, another four or five years of study in colleges or schools, it is foolish to expect that they will be cheaper than the present day allopathic practitioners. Their standards of life and taste for the amenities of big cities will create the same problem as now exists in all countries, viz., the tendency for doctors to crowd in the cities and refuse to go to the villages to set up practice. Even as it is, they are clamouring for the same status, pay and rights as the allopathic doctors. It is idle to expect that after further and more intensive training, they will be willing to lower their demands. (2) Drugs : Where a village vaidya prescribes a few common herbs and the patient's relatives have the time, energy and skill to collect them from various compounds and then prepare decoctions from them, the medicine may be cheap, if we are prepared to overlook the energy and man-power used up. But such simple decoctions are rarely very effective. With the gradually diminishing areas of land in the process of expansion of villages and towns, it will soon become necessary to have special areas under cultivation as herbaria, if we want to keep up the supply of medicinal plants. More efficient extraction of the active principles from them by the use of alcohol and other chemicals, using improved machinery, can be, and should be, done. But then the cheapness will vanish, as it is at present understood. I hold however that more effective medicines are in the long run cheaper. (3) Usually, we are not bothered about time in India. But with increasing employment and industrialization this question will become most important. If a worker can be cured and returned to work after one week's treatment costing Rs. 15, it is definitely cheaper for him and for the State than getting him cured in one month's time on Rs. 5. This aspect of man-power hours lost by sickness has not been paid the attention here that it deserves. An attack of pneumonia in the years before 1930 meant a man out of work for more than a month. With the advent of Sulfa drugs, not only did the mortality from pneumonia drop appreciably but the patient was returned to work quicker. With pencillin in the forties the temperature comes down within 24-48 hours. The increased cost of treatment is certainly not a real increase from the point of view of State. Therefore even if some of the Ayurvedic medicines are cheap in actual cost per unit, the slowness of their effect due to want of concentration really makes for waste of manpower and hence it is not cheap. Apart from such considerations, the actual state of affairs to-day is that the Ayurvedic medicines available on the market are certainly equal in price, if not more costly than, 90 per cent of the ordinary allopathic medicines.

“ The correct way to look at Indian medicine appears to me to be this. Ayurveda as expounded and practised hundreds of years ago in India represented a very advanced systems of knowledge based on accurate clinical observation and also on the best information

6th August 1946]

[Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar]

then available on the two subjects of Chemistry and Botany. Its subsequent progress in the last few centuries has been almost nil while in other parts of the world, phenomenal advances have been made in the basic sciences. The application of these scientific developments to medicine has resulted in the very great efficiency of modern scientific medicine. Even though ancient systems of medicine of great promise existed in China, Egypt, South America, etc., almost all the nations have now accepted scientific medicine. I doubt very much whether there is any country in the world now, which professes to have an indigenous system of medicine. Instead of spending money therefore on trying to bring Ayurveda up to date with the help of modern science, it appears to me to be far more sensible to take what is obviously of value in it and incorporate it in modern medicine. Thus for example physical treatment including massage has developed to a fine art in Ayurveda. Modern medicine had not paid much attention to it till recently; but in this war, physical rehabilitation and treatment units have been set up and have done very good service in bringing back the wounded soldier to a high level of functional fitness. The importance of human constitution in health and sickness has been recognized long before in Ayurveda. Modern medicine no doubt has some things to learn from Ayurveda, but what is not often recognized is that it is willing to learn and profit. The trouble about the followers of the Ayurvedic systems is that they are not prepared to learn from others. They are not prepared to admit the superiority of scientific methods, nor are they prepared to submit their theories and their medicines to the acid test of modern experiments. So long therefore as they claim superiority on grounds of firmly held opinions and opinions only and reject the test of truth by experimental method, just so long it will be impossible for rational people to admit such superiority. Till such time as they are prepared to take such a rational view, frankly, progress also is impossible. The usual argument is that they are able to cure diseases. Even in the field of scientific medicine, there are practitioners who are prepared to swear by clinical results only. The great pit fall here is absence of 'Controls.' Out of every 100 cases of illness, about 20 to 25 per cent will get cured without any treatment. About 20 per cent will not benefit, whatever be the treatment; Ayurveda or Allopathy, Homeopathy, or black magic or Christian science or Osteopathy will get fairly similar results. This is what makes clinical medicine not always a safe field for drawing conclusions about the results of treatment. During the course of my work on snake venoms at Kasauli and on rabies at Coonoor, I have had the opportunity of submitting to the rigorous experimental methods which are usually used for assessing the efficacy of antivenenes and antirabic vaccine, hundreds of Indian remedies boasted by Ayurveda and other systems. Not a single one was found to be of any value. Causis and Mhaskar in Bombay made out a list of the remedies advocated for treatment of snake bite in almost all the important works on Ayurveda, including Charaka, Susruia, Vaghbata, etc. They tested no less than 390 such remedies in the course of this work alone but with the same result as myself. There is a commonly held opinion that all followers of scientific medicine are prejudiced against Ayurveda. This is completely

[Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar]

[6th August 1946]

untrue. The fact is that they are not prepared to accept statements on authority. They put it to the test of experiment. If successful, such remedies are given due credit, e.g., Mahuang, a Chinese plant from which ephedrine is taken and hydrocarpus oil in India used for treatment of leprosy. But when they find the claims false, naturally they publish these findings also.

"I would therefore finally wind up with the following recommendation. Have a central body, manned by expert scientific men including biochemists, pharmacologists, physicists and clinicians from various systems if need be a body comparable to the Therapeutic Requirements Committee of the Medical Research Council of Great Britain or the Council of Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association in the United States of America, insist that all remedies as well as medicines to be advertised and sold to the public *under any system of medicine* should be examined by this council. The complete formula and contents of the medicines should be furnished by the manufacturers to this body. No one remedy should be advertised as a cure for epilepsy, indigestion, sexual debility and a host of other diseases. Only when the Council has accepted a remedy as a useful one, should it be sold to the public. There is a pressing necessity for such control even for medicines under the allopathic system as I have had several examples brought to my notice of biological preparations which are actually contaminated, being sold to the innocent public. In one case, death was directly due to the contamination. With the medicines under the Indian systems, the need is even more. I often wonder whether the preparations advertised widely as containing gold, musk and other things ever do so. Another point I would like to stress in this connexion is that Indian manufacturers often ask you to use their products only, on grounds of patriotism. But they should keep in mind that there is a responsibility resting upon them to justify themselves by producing only articles of a high standard of purity. They should not appeal to patriotism and then sell inferior products to the public and pay high dividends to their promoters. The Government should not lend itself to any steps which mean preferential treatment to firms in this Province or in India, unless it is satisfied about the standards of the products by actual testing.

"Once there is such a central authoritative body, we can have any system of medicine because the ultimate test of any system is its efficiency. What I am against is the wasting of public money on systems or medicines, on grounds of sentimental nationalism. Any system must first prove its worth under the exacting conditions of modern experimental methods and not depend upon time honoured beliefs, and the personal prejudices of people, however highly placed they may be or however vociferous their voices raised in propaganda. Last but not least, let us not be swayed in our deliberations on such an important matter as the public health of the nation, by considerations not relevant to it, such as political or party affiliations or the ephemeral pleasure of 'playing to the gallery' for vote catching."

6th August 1946]

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Mr. President, may I extend a hearty welcome to this Khadi budget? Though it is a coercive one I welcome it since it contains the seeds of national re-construction.

“ So far as prohibition is concerned, some members say that moral education is necessary before we introduce prohibition. We should not compare this big land of India with England. In such a small area as England where a very high percentage of the population is educated, it is very easy to impart moral education. There whatever we say, the people can understand and act upon it. But here only 6 per cent of the population are educated. Unless we have prohibition we cannot carry on moral education. Yet the people in this respect are educated and moral education has been given for the last 25 years. As far as prohibition is concerned, it must be total prohibition. I say total prohibition is necessary now. As another friend has said, you cannot have prohibition in one district and drink in another district. You legalize a man drinking in one village and penalize a man in the adjacent village for drinking. It is against all principles of legal jurisprudence or morality or ethics. If we introduce total prohibition in all the districts, there can be no question of illicit traffic.

“ As far as the budget is concerned, we can easily balance the budget if total prohibition is introduced. I will give a balanced budget for five long years. There are 30 crores in the Revenue Reserve Fund. For five years, the income from sales tax comes to about 32 crores. That comes to about 62 crores. The interest on the Revenue Reserve Fund for five years comes to about Rs. 2 crores. Altogether it comes to about 64 crores and the loss in revenue from drink for five years comes to 65 crores. So for five long years we can have continuous total prohibition without a deficit budget. I am indeed astonished to read the statement of the Prime Minister in the Assembly that, if total prohibition were to be introduced, we would have to impose fresh taxation. For prohibition or for anything else neither this Congress Government nor any other Government should go in for fresh taxation. Up till now there has been no scientific examination of the per capita income or the tax-bearing capacity of the people of this presidency. No Government have undertaken such an examination. Without that, are we justified in inflicting a further tax on the people? Certainly not. If we want to increase our revenues, we should abolish the zamindari system. The Zamindari Bobbili Ministry introduced the Estates Land Act, and therein they have stated that one year's rent is enough for compensation. Likewise, we can pay one year's rent as compensation to the zamindars and take away their zamindaris. We can increase our land revenue a great deal, and we can introduce total prohibition, compulsory primary education, free medical aid, free quarters, old age pensions, and so on and so forth to all people when we take charge of zamindaris after paying a year's rent as compensation as the Raja of Bobbili himself has said.

6th August 1946] [Sri A. Govindacharyulu]

" I am sorry I do not see the Education Minister here to extend my hearty congratulations to him on having issued orders for the adoption of Telugu, Tamil, etc., as the medium of instruction. Certainly it is a very welcome step. The Minister should take courage in both hands and see that the Universities also change their attitude towards vernacular languages. When once we introduce vernacular as the medium in the high schools, they will be forced to change their attitude, and a day will come when we can teach our children only in the vernaculars. Then only, Sir, we will get out of our slavery. The physical slavery alone is not the bondage of India. Mentally also we are slaves. Sir Joyson Hicks, formerly a member of the British Cabinet, had once said that 'India is bound not merely by soul, not merely by the point of our bayonet, but by our education, by our English language, by our bread and by our articles.' When we go to schools, we see teaching in foreign language only. When we go to the playground, we see foreign bats and foreign instruments. When we go into our kitchen there also we see foreign articles."

AN HON. MEMBER :—" Why don't you speak Telugu ? "

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I wanted to speak in Telugu. I wish that we all speak only in our own language, and I shall do it."

The House then rose for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* MR. PRESIDENT :—" Before the House resumes general discussion on the budget, I wish to bring the following to the notice of the House. Under section 84 of the Government of India Act, 1935, a Chamber of a Provincial Legislature may make rules for regulating, subject to the provisions of this Act, their procedure and the conduct of their business. Until rules are made under this section the rules of procedure and standing orders in force immediately before the commencement of this Part of this Act with respect to the Legislative Council of the Province shall have effect in relation to the Legislature of the Province, subject to such modifications and adaptations as may be made therein by the Governor acting in his discretion. In 1937, His Excellency the Governor made certain changes in the previous rules, and those rules were in vogue in 1937. In that year, a joint committee of both the Houses was appointed by nomination of members by the Hon. Speaker and the Hon. President. That committee sat for a number of days, prepared a report and suggested various amendments. Later on some amendments also came to be made, and before the committee could finish its labours, the Ministry resigned and the matter stood there. Now we have to take up the thread from where it was left then, and so the Hon. Speaker and myself consulted each other. The Hon. Speaker has appointed a committee of nine members including himself and the Deputy Speaker to

6th August 1946] [Mr. President]

be assisted by a committee appointed by me. I have decided to appoint the following hon. Members to sit on that committee to finish the work left unfinished by the previous committee :—

President.

Deputy President.

Hon. Sri B. Veeraswami.

Sri K. Madhava Menon.

Sri B. Narayanaswami Naidu.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan.

Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar.

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao.

K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur.

These will form a joint committee with the members of the Assembly nominated by the Hon. Speaker and I request them to sit with the other members and see that the rules are brought up to date so that they may be introduced in this House with as little delay as possible."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ For the vernacularization of studies, it is necessary to have text books in vernaculars on scientific subjects also. That, I submit, is an urgent need. While I was in jail in 1930, some friend said that it was impossible to vernacularize studies at least so far as economics, politics, physics, chemistry and other scientific subjects were concerned. I submit, Sir, that I myself wrote a book on Indian economics in Telugu to the satisfaction of our learned Vice-Chancellor, Sir C. R. Reddi and others. The book is now recognized by the Andhra University. I say with full confidence that likewise in every subject, we can produce authoritative books for university studies. So I request the Education Minister to bestow his thought at once on the subject of vernacularization of studies.

“ As far as the Andhra University is concerned, I would like to submit that the Senate passed an unanimous resolution last year to include Ceded districts in its jurisdiction. The Governor said that after the popular government took up office, the question would be taken up. Now a popular government are in office. I request the Government to take steps for amending the Act so as to include the Ceded districts in the Andhra University area.

“ Lastly, as far as education is concerned, the Government should look to the needs of the mofussal colleges also. In the mofussal, many colleges have sprung up last year and this year. There is one such college in my own place (Ellore). There is another college in Bhimavaram and also in Bezwada. All these are young colleges. Not a pie is given to any of these colleges. I searched through the whole budget to find if any allotment was made to those colleges, but in vain. I submit, Sir, that ancient and well-established colleges like the Loyola College, do not stand in need of financial assistance from the Government. If it is the policy of the Government that University education need not be financed, I welcome that. More funds should be spent on compulsory primary education and high school education. When they

[Sri A. Govindacharyulu] [6th August 1946]

spend lakhs and lakhs on Universities, why should not they see that these baby colleges also are given some encouragement by way of grant until they stand on their own legs?

"I now come to the Police department. There is a C.I.D. department with which I am very much connected. For about 20 years I had the honour of being associated with the Shorthand Reporters from the Telugu Branch of the C.I.D. So I know the interests of the branch and the difficulties of the C.I.D., Inspectors there. Without going into the details of it, I request the Government to transfer the Telugu section of the C.I.D. to Nellore or Bezwada with a view to facilitate work and reduce expenditure in that department. When meetings were announced, the D.S.P. used to wire for the reporters, but before he came, the meetings would be over. So the Government incur much expenditure, but they do not get much benefit. So the Tamil section of it may be in a place like Trichinopoly or Madras and the Telugu section at Bezwada. Then the Government will be able to get all the speeches reported by the branch with less cost. They can go up to Madras in the south and Vizagapatam in the north, if the centre is Bezwada."

AN HON. MEMBER :—"What about Ceded districts?"

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"When I speak of Andhra, I never leave out the Ceded districts."

"Now I wish to say a few words about constables. I am sorry to remark that mostly illiterate men are being taken as constables. I read once about the military department of England. It was that all people who could not say who their father and mother were, were recruited to the military in England and that they were sent here as Indian Police Officers and so on. Of course, our Police department is not so bad, but at the same time I can say that police constables are recruited from the lower classes."

* SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—"I strongly object to reflections being cast on any section of Government servants. The constables have fathers and mothers."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"I spoke of the military in England and not about our country."

* MR. PRESIDENT :—"Even about England, that remark is very much out of place."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—"I withdraw it, Sir."

"So, I suggest that educated people may be recruited from the very start so that the department may be reconstructed on a strong basis. The minimum pay for a constable must be at least Rs. 30 a month. Then you can have the best men in the Police department."

"Another allied department is the Jail department. I believe many members on this side of the House have got experience of jails. I suggest that the classification of politicals into A, B, and C classes should be abolished, and one single class for all politicals should be introduced. There are many things to be done for the central jails. I should like to see a little sum set apart for jail

6th August 1946] [Sri A. Govindacharyulu]

reformation. I do not see anything provided in the Budget to bring about improvements in central jail administration. Under the last Congress Government, nothing was done to make the jails habitable for people like us, but I do hope that our Premier who has had better experience of jail life will see that, before we get into the jails next time from this House, they are made habitable for us."

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" No prospect for you now. It may be our turn perhaps."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I want to say a word about motor vehicles. They are now sold on permits. I submit that some sort of blackmarketing is going on in motor vehicles sold on permits, e.g., having a car in my own name and another in the name of my wife, taking a permit for a car to-day and possibly selling away the car tomorrow. I would like to be in the wrong so far as this information is concerned, that is, that such things did not happen. I hear that there is no rule that the cars purchased under permits should not be resold within six months or one year. If a rule is introduced that the car owner . . ."

* MR. PRESIDENT :—" In these matters, I request hon. Members to mention particular instances, if any, that have come to their notice."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Will I be allowed to mention names here? I feel that I will not be in order if I say that such and such a person . . ."

* MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is not a question of names. If you can name the persons, I am sure the matter will be looked into. Otherwise we do not know whether it is true or false. That is why I made that remark."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" All that I want is this, that a rule should be introduced that cars taken on permits should not be resold within the course of one year and that they should not be given to those who have already got cars, until and unless they surrender those cars to Government. That is all that I want."

" As far as the district traffic committees are concerned, formerly there used to be a committee for each district so far as motor traffic was concerned. Now there is only one committee for three, four or five districts put together. We do not know when their meetings are held, nor are we invited to attend them. People come and make representations to us, but we are not aware of their meetings or their agenda. So I request that a separate committee be formed for each district and that the representatives of the Legislature in the district be associated with it, so that we may be able to place before the Government in unequivocal terms the grievances of the people."

" Sir, next, I should like to say a word about the statistical information contained in the annual administration reports."

2-45
p.m.

* MR. PRESIDENT :—" I hope, the hon. Member will finish his speech within five minutes."

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Very well, Sir. I shall then pass on to one or two important matters I want to mention on

[Sri A. Govindacharyulu]

[6th August 1946]

the floor of this House. I shall now refer to the Khadi programme of the Government, because I shall be able to finish it within five minutes. This Khadi programme for which I have nothing but hearty welcome, requires to be amended slightly. I say 'for Heaven's sake, do not tag this department on to the Textile department.' The Textile department is too heavy. There is at its head a Provincial Textile Commissioner, and under him there is a Joint Provincial Textile Commissioner, drawing about Rs. 1,800 or so recruited from the Provincial Civil Service and a host of other officers. The Khadi department should not be treated as a tail of the Textile department. It should be formed into an independent department under the direct control of the Minister for Village Industries. Let there be a Khadi Commissioner directly recruited from Wardha, if necessary, who has considerable experience of organizing the Khadi movement. A man like Sri Gollapudi Sitarama Sastri should be put in charge of the department. There is no need to pay such a high salary to this officer, as is paid to the officers of the Textile department. Anything between Rs. 800 to Rs. 1,000 will be enough.

"Then, Sir, just as in the Ceded districts, there should be, in the other parts of the province also, village industries officers appointed to work under the Khadi Commissioner, two for the Tamil districts, one for the coastal districts and the other for the West Coast. This department should be directly administered by the Minister, so that red-tapism might be avoided. These Khadi Inspectors may be recruited directly from the Congress workers who have suffered for the country's cause and who are well-qualified and experienced in the work. They should not be under the tutelage of the Tahsildars or Revenue Divisional Officers or of the other Revenue officials. They must have a Khadi spirit, a Khadi heart, a Khadi mind and a Khadi body. All these four things must be combined in that officer who is to carry on the Khadi programme. Our Ministers are Khadi men and they must expect their workers also to be of the same spirit. (Abdul Latif Farookhi Sahib Bahadur:—'Devoid of flesh and blood!') When I say workers, I mean also workers of the League, who have suffered for the cause of the country. They too had been to jails with us in 1921 and so I do not exclude Muslim League workers. There must be no discrimination between Congress workers and the League workers in working the Khadi programme, but they must have full belief in the programme of Khadi and village industries. If the Khadi department is organized on the above model, I have no doubt that it will be successful.

"In order to increase the revenues of the Government, I would suggest that all the key industries should be nationalized. The textile industry, the jute and the sugar industries must be nationalized. Government should also nationalize the public bus services and thus augment the revenues of the Province. In fact, the Central Government have nationalized the Postal and Telegraph services and have taken up the railway services too. Similarly the Provincial Government should see that all industries that can be nationalized are nationalized as soon as practicable.

6th August 1946]

[Sri A. Govindacharyulu]

“ Finally, Sir, I should like to make one request to the present Ministry in the name of humanity, and that is, the abolition of the Guindy races. Along with the introduction of Prohibition, they should prohibit the Guindy races. Many families have been ruined on account of these races. The other day, some friends remarked that the Government should abolish at least the second enclosure, if not the first, as it is the zamindars who usually go to the first enclosure. I do not subscribe to this view. The zamindars also are our men and it is a question of moral obligation on the part of the Government to see that none of the people go to the races and get ruined. If the Government cannot afford to lose the little income derived from these Guindy and Ooty races, at least, I request them to see that the second enclosures are closed.

“ Sir, I forgot to mention one thing, and that is about the pay given to the lecturers in oriental languages. It is a standing grievance that they are not treated justly and fairly and that there is a distinct inferiority about their status and pay as compared with the lecturers in other departments of Education, for instance the lecturers in English, Economics and Sciences. They have no scope to improve their conditions during their whole service and it seems they are not entitled to become gazetted officers at any time. The Government should see that this ban is lifted so that lecturers in oriental languages and other subjects are placed on a par and are treated alike.

“ Then, Sir, regarding the Ayurvedic programme of the Hon. the Lady Minister for Health, while welcoming it, I would like to suggest that there should be established a research institute in Madras on the model of the Research Institute of Dr. Chopra at Calcutta, so that Ayurvedic medicines may be prepared on scientific lines and sold to the public. Our people have great faith in the Ayurvedic treatment. Whatever may be the nature of the medicine, whether Ayurvedic or Allopathic, it is the faith, rather than the medicine that cures the patient. Personally, I have got very great faith in Ayurveda. When I was once laid up, I was told by the Allopathic doctors that I would die, but I am now alive. (Laughter.) As long as I took Allopathic medicines, I was not cured. I daresay that it was the Ayurvedic treatment that had cured me and given me the life that I am having now. Therefore, Sir, I want two things to be done in this connexion. One is that a Research Institute for Ayurveda should be established and the other is that an Ayurvedic depot should be opened for the whole Province to supply pure and scientific medicines. Ten years ago there was a proposal by Government to open a Central Ayurvedic Depot and the District Boards were asked to give their opinion on it. I do not know what had become of that proposal. Now the District Boards are calling for tenders for Ayurvedic medicines, for Makaradwajas and so many other things. The Presidents of District Boards somehow agree to such tenders, even though the purity of medicines is not guaranteed to themselves. (Laughter.) Even now the thing is going on. To supply reliable

[Sri A. Govindacharyulu]

[6th August 1946]

medicines, the Government themselves should open depots and sell the medicines to the district boards and local bodies and thus make it a profitable venture.

“ Likewise, Sir, I suggest that text-books may be printed and published for all schools in all the languages, so that Government may get some income out of these publications and thus to some extent put down the corruption that is prevalent among district boards, who are dealing with these things.

“ Sir, with these words, I thank the Hon. the President for having allowed me to speak and I resume my seat.”

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Mr. President, I have not yet made up my mind to congratulate the Hon. the Premier and the Cabinet on the production of this Budget. I believe, however, that the Hon. the Premier is entitled to the pity and the consideration of this House and of the public at large for the march of **events** and things for which they are not responsible. But the fact remains that since the Legislatures have commenced to function again, they have to serve as the mouthpiece of public opinion.

“ Sir, in the course of the last debate, I had my say on food. But I do not know whether I was able to persuade the Cabinet to accept my proposal for producing more food. Despite that, it is a matter of great disappointment and grief to me to see the Hon. Prime Minister announcing in the House a reduction in our rice ration from 10 oz. to 8 oz. It is not his fault, because he has to husband the resources at his disposal and the reduction has become absolutely necessary. If the **suggestion** I made on last occasion had been adopted, I believe, this reduction would not have been necessary. I have reasons for making this assertion. The Hon. the Law Minister who visited Trichinopoly suggested intensive production of short-term paddy in those areas where short-term paddy is not usually grown. In the scheme I submitted to Government through the Collector of Trichinopoly I had observed that the short-term kuruvai crop was unsuitable and that I would produce 45,000 kalams of paddy in the month of September if certain conditions were agreed to. And those conditions—consisting as they did of some manure for that out of season cultivation. The Collector could not grant this supply to me and so I went about persuading the villagers to accept my scheme and, at a conference attended also by revenue officials it was decided that a short-term crop should be raised if the supply of two bags of groundnut cakes could be assured per acre. I suggested that the Government would be well advised in subsidizing the land at the rate of Rs. 30 per acre as manure and allow water in the channel. Well water was allowed hampering even the repairs to the channels, but the reply of the Government was to the effect that free supply of manure could not be sanctioned. The reason given was that there was plenty of manure available in the market and that loans under the Takkavi Act were also available. Then what

6th August 1946] [Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

happened was the receipt of a circular from the Director of Agriculture, saying that all the groundnut cakes had been commandeered by the Department for sale to the ryots. I thought it was a welcome relief inasmuch as we could get the manure at controlled prices and that there would be no black-marketing in manure. I then went to the agricultural depot and asked for the 250 bags which for the last six years I had been getting for my lands. I was told that I could take 5 tons and no more and that there were others clamouring for that manure. I am asking whether, in the present critical food situation, this is the way any responsible department should function. The Government promised to give groundnut cakes free for manure and, taking the Government at its word, we went to the manure depot and witnessed the sorry spectacle of hundreds of people standing in queue after walking a distance of 30 miles, waiting for this precious stuff. Mind you this is the cultivation season. Manure has got to be applied to the soil 15 days before sowing. The Government have undertaken to give the manure for raising crops and not for statistical purposes. We have lost 2 oz. in our rice ration. In order that we may not lose our rice ration altogether we want manure. But manure has been taken over by Government. In this situation I told the Director of Agriculture yesterday that I would have to stop my cultivation if he would not supply me groundnut cakes. This is the position of people who are engaged in growing food. I want to bring this state of affairs to the notice of the House and of the Government. Surely there is something wrong in the whole policy of agricultural development in this province. Wages for manual workers have gone up, but food has somehow to be found and crops raised. As the food is the prime consideration to-day every effort should be made by Government to raise more food. The ryots are willing to grow more food; there is water in the channel; but there is no manure. That is the sorry state of affairs that has to be immediately remedied. That is why I regret that this food campaign has got stuck up somewhere. What is it I find in the Budget proposals in regard to this matter? Intensification of production in areas where already a certain quantity of paddy is produced. It is a very good proposal. Tanjore district is the granary of South India and, to-day for the first time, the question of intensification of production in the district of Tanjore has been mentioned in this Budget. The need for constructing a drainage has been mentioned in the Budget speech. But drainage cannot be constructed this year. It is an engineering, agricultural and financial problem and it is a long-term proposal. In that district water has been allowed to stagnate for years and years and neglected. If you attempt to drain it off now, you cannot get increased food from that area this year or the next.

"The other day we were made to pay 50 per cent more for wheat got from Sind at the instance of the benevolent Government of India. While the small quantities of groundnut cake to enable us to produce more paddy is denied to us by the Government of Madras, wheat, for which we are not able to find proper

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan] [6th August 1946]

use, is thrust upon us at double its cost. Nay, it has been necessary to carry on propaganda amongst our people as to the best method of consuming this commodity. A man, the propagandist, comes along in a huge military lorry which gives a mileage of four miles per gallon and gets iddies and dosais finely prepared by a cook employed by the State. This cook also demonstrates that he could make fine dishes. But is there any poor man who can adopt the measures suggested by this propagandist in wheat preparations? The articles required for these preparations are green chillies, green coriander, half an ounce of oil and an equal quantity of ghee and firewood to cook the stuff in order to make of this wheat something eatable. It takes a longer time to cook this than rice. People could cook rice by burning even dry leaves, but not so this stuff. This requires sustained heat to cook it. When this is the case, unless the Government issues along with the wheat some condiments and green chillies and so on and also salt, people would not welcome it. If propaganda is to have effect, it should be practical. I am bringing this to the notice of the Government because the people to whom wheat is issued do not know how to prepare it properly; and they cannot also afford the cost. The Government should, therefore, see that they take only such steps as will bear fruit. They should bear this in mind when they propose to spend 7 crores of the Reserve Fund partly in Sind, partly in America and partly in Australia for food stuff of what kind, God only knows. I can understand the argument that some food stuff is better than nothing. But let us remember two things. The first is that this sort of import should not last longer than the transition period which will be short in view of the fact that the measures taken now will in time bring in sufficient food for the needs of our province, and the second thing is that the man who produces food should be given all possible facilities. I want the Government to note these two things. They cannot say, with great success, that though they have reduced our rice rations they have given us something else to make up for it. Our contention all along has been that we can produce all the food we want if we proceed on sound lines. I appeal to the Government and I offer my services to produce more food to the best of my capacity.

1-15
p.m.

“ The question of Prohibition is closely associated with village development. In order that total Prohibition may be successful, villages will have to be organised and the committees which have recently come into existence will have to be organized. Now-a-days we see one phenomenon in all the villages: all the labourers get greatly enhanced wages. I pay one rupee per day of six or seven hours work for an unskilled labourer. I am talking of a remote village where civilization has not yet entered. I am very glad the villager is getting Re. 1 per day but what happens is this.”

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Does the hon. Member consider that Re. 1 per day is a very high rate compared with the rise in the cost of living? ”

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I was paying As. 4 two years ago and to-day I am paying Re. 1. If the prices of agricultural products

6th August 1946]

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

have increased correspondingly I would have no objection to pay even Rs. 2. But the price of paddy is controlled by the throat and the Government take away the paddy at controlled prices. What is it that the Government expect the agriculturist to do under the circumstances? If the labourer gets Re. 1 a day which you cannot deny is a very fair wage, what is it that he does with it? I have not seen the labourer put by even 8 annas at the end of the month. He was drinking for $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas when he got 4 annas and now when he gets a rupee he drinks for 12 annas. That is how the Excise revenue has increased from three and three-fourths crores to 16 crores. And all these 16 crores come out of the 1 rupee per day which the poor man gets out of us. Under the circumstances, prohibition has become imperative; there should be some legislation to control the liquor trade in this country. Increased wages have absolutely failed to bring about an improvement in their economic condition. It has not benefited the labouring classes who continue to be as poor as they were when they were getting 4 annas a day. Go with me to any village, enter the huts of labourers getting increased wages of Re. 1 per day and see whether they have got anything worth the name of human comforts. Why? All that is taken away by the State in the form of drink revenue. Therefore absolute and total Prohibition is the imperative need of the hour if there should be any economic progress in the country. I am glad the Hon. Minister has come forward with a proposal to extend Prohibition to four more districts. I know the trouble involved in the matter, but I may say without fear of contradiction that of all the measures intended for human uplift, Harijan uplift or labour uplift, not one can compete with total Prohibition in its effectiveness. For, Sir, the classes that generally drink are mostly the labourers and these labourers mostly come from the depressed classes. The cry of the depressed classes, the wives and children of the labourers, is for Prohibition. There are friends who will say at once that the people will go to nearby districts and drink. These and similar arguments have been repeated *ad nauseam*. Some would talk about America; some would talk about selling sweets and eatables in the liquor shops. All this is absolutely out of the question. Prohibition is an imperative necessity in this country. It cannot be otherwise if we mean well by the poor man. I am not concerned about the wealthy persons. We are a poor class of persons. Our race is poor.

“ While Prohibition was in force in Salem, I had a survey made of the health conditions of the addicts to whom liquor had been prohibited. It was feared by some that the health of these people would deteriorate for want of liquor to which they had been accustomed, that some would even commit suicide and so on. But the survey made by the Health Department, looking at Prohibition purely as a health measure, told a different story. The report of the Health Department is still in the Secretariat. The statistics collected by the health officers proved that invariably in every case stoppage of liquor added to the health of the people, prolonged their life and made them more resistant to infectious diseases.

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

[6th August 1946]

To-day, they are much better men for having given up drink. No doubt, the struggle for the first few days or months has been there. It is so in every case where you want a reform of the kind of Prohibition like Prohibition. We ought to be thankful to the Hon. Prime Minister and I congratulate him for having extended Prohibition to four more districts. But it is absolutely inadequate and I may say it is even pregnant with possibilities of failure and some risk. While we prohibit the sale of liquor to the poor man in one district, it is inconsistent and illogical and even detrimental to the prestige of the Government to allow the sale of liquor in another district. Last time with an income of Rs. 3½ crores we introduced Prohibition in four districts, but to-day with a reserve fund of Rs. 32 crores we are afraid to introduce Prohibition in all the districts. We should get this hesitation out of our minds. There is the money; only we should have the will for it. We can have fresh taxation, if necessary, provided the proceeds of the taxation are devoted to rooting out this evil completely.

“The Advisors’ Government abolished Prohibition in the districts in which it had been introduced but at the same time they did not remove the taxes which had been imposed for financing the same. Cleverly enough they stated they would not touch a pie of the proceeds of the sales tax which were meant for Prohibition and that they would be funded and kept in reserve for use by a future Congress Government. And to-day, there is a Congress Government which has been put in possession of not 3 or 4 crores but 32 crores of rupees. If they say that they are afraid of introducing Prohibition all over the Presidency, I think, Sir, it is a very regrettable feature.

“Sir, we stand committed to prohibition. The Province of Madras—both the Legislature and the Government—stand committed to prohibition. They have enacted a law of Prohibition and passed the necessary taxation measures to finance the same. The taxes continue to-day and they have also been enhanced since from a quarter per cent to half a per cent. There is a proposal to raise it to 1 per cent. I do not grudge it, provided there is the possibility of making prohibition a complete success and that even now. I was rather amused the other day when the Hon. the Prime Minister said that there was no such thing as earmarking the proceeds of the Sales Tax for this purpose or that purpose. It may be that strictly speaking that all revenues are State revenues. But where do they come from? This is a particular revenue based on a particular Act of the Legislature with an obligation on the Government to carry out a certain reform. This was levied when the decision to introduce prohibition was reached and was accepted by the country. In introducing the General Sales Tax Act, here is what Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, the then Prime Minister, said in so many words. I am taking it from the Assembly Debates. He said, ‘If the House gives me this power to levy the tax, then Mr. Hameed Khan may make this demand with all the force at his command and ask that prohibition should at once be introduced throughout the Province. If as has been stated, the proceeds from

6th August 1946] [Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

this tax is 4 or 5 crores of rupees, I promise on the honour of this Government that prohibition will be introduced throughout the Province.' A man in the responsible position of the Prime Minister of this Province made this solemn oath. It is not a mere statement made by a man representing the Congress Government of the day in the course of the debate. The Hon. the Premier of the then Congress Government said: 'Give me 5 crores and I will introduce total prohibition.' Now we have got 32 crores and yet total prohibition has not yet come in. It is not a matter of mere commitment. It is a matter in which the advisability of a particular tax was challenged, and assurances were given by those responsible for the imposition of the tax."

* DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask whether there was any specific clause on this point in the particular taxation measure or was it merely a piece of argument that was adduced in the course of the debate."

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It was not an argument merely for the sake of argument to carry a debate. There was not enough revenue to put the resolution of the House into force, and the necessary revenue was raised by a particular form of taxation, and an assurance was given that this money would not be diverted to any other purpose, and that it would be employed to the particular purpose for which it was raised. Even the Advisers' Government said: 'We shall not touch this money. We are going to bank it.' "

* SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Even for post-war schemes? "

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" You may consider this as a post-war scheme. I do not know whether there is any special label for post-war schemes. If the progress of the country and the improvement of the condition of the poor people is the object of post-war schemes, then this also is a post-war scheme. I am not obsessed by the word 'post-war' as such. If prohibition is introduced now, because the war is over, I give you full liberty to call it a post-war scheme.

" Not only that, from the point of view of health, no single health measure can give the nation that amount of health as this. I plead with all the ability at my disposal that this measure should be expedited by the Government. To-day the Government have been able to introduce prohibition only in eight districts on account of the rapid manner in which the budget had to be framed; and the Finance Secretariat had not been able to adjust themselves to the new conditions. I am prepared to wait. But next year, the Government should not come forward with a 'no' or add another three districts. I do not want an assurance now. But prohibition is the accepted policy of the House and the nation, and it should be adopted when once the finances permit. My contention is that the finance does permit it now. Perhaps next year it may be said: 'we said so last year, but circumstances have changed; we

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

[6th August 1946]

may stop with eight districts and not extend it further.' Personally I believe that it is far more easy to have complete prohibition than partial prohibition. We want to prevent inter-district illicit sale and black-market activities. But much depends on the people who work prohibition. It was because of that prohibition which was effectively worked when the Congress Ministry was in power it was found to be difficult to work when the Congress Ministry resigned. Therefore, given the necessary man-power and the public support and the finances required, I should think we can expect the introduction of total prohibition as early as possible, as soon as they are able to get over the inconveniences, which they have to face on account of their suddenly coming into power, which I hope, they will be able to adjust in the course of a few months.

"I now come to another important question, Khadi, and I want to make one personal statement. In 1919 and 1920 when Khaddar was a mere platform subject and not a reality, I was one of those who carried a charka on my shoulders and went from village to village, night and day for months at a stretch, and expounded the charka to the people and asked them to spin and persuaded them to use khadi. To-day, I spin my own yarn and use my own cloth. Therefore, if I say anything in criticism of the proposal of the Government, it should not be taken to mean that I have deserted my khadi principles, discarded the khadi programme, and discontinued to be a khadi fellow. I know it is one of the most difficult programmes to be launched. The All-India Spinners' Association had been in existence with Mahatma Gandhi at its head, and the whole strength of the Congress has been at its disposal with regard to publicity and planning. The All-India Spinners' Association has done its best. To-day everybody knows that the All-India Spinners' Association has come to relieve a large number of people—more than 36 to 40 lakhs in Tamil Nad alone. It has worked well and no man can complain. To-day if there is one non-official organization which is working with all its integrity for a definite purpose, it is the All-India Spinners' Association. That being so, let us see why, after all these 24 years, this Khadi programme has not spread and become universal. There is something in the Indian nature with regard to the conditions of life which makes the khadi programme almost impossible in certain areas. If you give a coolie one rupee a day for 6 or 7 hours of indifferent labour, how could you ask his wife to spin and weave by telling her that they would have to go naked unless they produced the cloth they required? If she produces any yarn at all it will not be fit to be put into any loom, nor would it be woven by any weaver. Khadi prices have gone up 3 or 4 times the pre-war level not because the spinners' wages have gone up. The spinners' wages have only been doubled. But the price of khadi is exorbitant, next only to the handloom cloth. Why? Recently in Karur there was a riot of weavers and 25,000 of them made a raid on the capitalist handloom weavers' establishments and set fire to them. Six lakhs worth of weaving materials were burnt down in a few hours. The mob was enraged, and the

6th August 1946] [Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

Collector and the Police were powerless for a time and had to resort to shooting. Why did this happen? People are not fond of rioting. The fact is that in Karur, where there were only 15 looms some time back, there are now 15,000 looms. Where did these people come from? These people were getting six annas or one rupee a day at the most as their wages elsewhere, but to-day the wages of a handloom weaver are Rs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ to Rs. 6 a day. Therefore these wage-earners threw down their shovels and hammer, etc., and took up this occupation. There are at present million-are master weavers. There are many labourers who have deserted the fields and taken up this occupation. I cite these instances not to discourage the movement. Far from it. I only want to point out the possibilities of danger that is in the programme undertaken by the Government, and the difficulties they will have to face in view of the conditions prevailing in the country and in this industry. The handloom weaver to-day gets Rs. $4\frac{1}{2}$ to Rs. 5 a day and in a village, where there are 600 looms, the average income of a weaver is Rs. 200 a month. If you are going to ask these weavers to turn over to khaddar they won't do it. To-day, those people, who were spinning for the All-India Spinners' Association, have run away to handlooms. The Government propose to take up a firka and say to the people there: We won't give you cloth; we will give you charkas and you will have to spin and weave your cloth. It is a very good programme and it has got behind it the power and prestige of the Government which the All-India Spinners' Association did not have. But the fear of the Government will not drive these people to spinning but only to desert their work and run away seeking their cloth somewhere and somehow. There is an enormous amount of difficulty in changing over from one system to another. I therefore simply want to tell you that in the khadi scheme which we expect to be a financial scheme, a business scheme where we invest money with a view to get back what we are investing, I cannot visualise any success. If these 4 crores of rupees are spent and the results are taken for what they are worth, it does not matter. That will also teach a lesson to us as to how far we can succeed in this programme with all the Government influences.

“ Sir, khadi development can take place only in areas which are most suited for it. Khadi can thrive only in particular areas. That is why it has developed in very many places and it has not developed in other places where it cannot thrive. The Government officers will have to take refuge in the All-India Spinners' Association, get instruction from them as to the areas and other conditions, and they may absorb the All-India Spinners' Association men into the Government. This is what it will come to. When you work, the scheme under Government auspices, you will look absolutely ludicrous when compared with the working and the methods of the All-India Spinners' Association. There the topmost man gets Rs. 200. He handles the whole work connected with Tamil Nad. They are keeping very good account of the money and not a pie is lost. But here the Commissioner requires a Deputy

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

[6th August 1946]

Textile Commissioner and any number of assistants, people who have never gone out and done any work in khadi production, on scales of pay which are ridiculous when compared with the standard of the All-India Spinners' Association and the ideal of Mahatma Gandhi. I am telling these things simply to impress upon the Hon. Minister the financial implications of the scheme which are top heavy. It cannot be a profitable business. I would ask the Government to proceed about it slowly, certainly less slowly than what they have programmed to do. They have taken 25 firkas all over the Presidency. Sir, it is not a mathematical proposition and khadi work does not proceed on mathematical calculation. It models on the line of human want and human development and in such areas where there are human wants and human development, there alone khadi will succeed. You cannot have khadi development in the City of Madras where the population deals in thousands of rupees."

* MR. PRESIDENT:—"If the hon. Member has many more points, I would request him to be more concise."

* DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, I shall finish. I am trying to lay emphasis on this particular point with a view to give the background and the spirit underlying this programme."

"Then, Sir, there is the programme of Harijan uplift. I know what I am saying may not be palatable to the hon. Minister, but I have to say what I have to say. There is the question of Harijan uplift. One crore of rupees has been set apart, and most of us do not know what is going to be done. Recently at the meeting of the District Council I was told that the Collectors should choose a place where the Government were going to create a colony, a colony which will be a non-caste colony. It will be a colony in which people of all castes would go and assemble, and it is said to be the intention of the Government that it should be planned on the most correct and up to date lines. There should be proper drainage, there should be water-supply, there should be proper lighting, there should be sanitary conditions; schools, hospitals, health centre and all these things will be provided for at the cost of the Government. Sites will be given free for buildings to be built up. All castes of people can come and take part. That is the proposal as far as I know. I do not know whether the Collector has got the information correctly. This was discussed in the District Council last week as it was put before it for acceptance. I am trying to give you the facts as I know them. This scheme, Sir, is a novel experiment, though it is a good experiment. I want to know how these colonies will develop. Sir, I am afraid, that many of other caste people will try to get these very attractive sites when provided with good water supply, sanitary conditions of living, hospitals, lighting and all these conveniences. Anybody will come. But how can the Harijans come and live there. They should not be merely given the site and left there. The houses must be built for them. No mention with regard to a subsidy for construction of buildings has been made in the budget. If the

6th August 1946] [Dr. T. S. S. Rajan]

Government intend to give a subsidy for the construction of houses, then it is a good proposition. If not, I think the proposition is not a sound one. The Government must restrict admission and choose the non-caste colony to their satisfaction. That is what I want to be done. If merely a site is to be given, I am afraid the poor people will get the site and sell it advantageously to the next man who pays well and the site will pass out of their possession.

“ Sir, the Harijan Sevakh Sangh have been working here and have done very good work and they should be consulted on this proposition and such of the experiences that they have must be made profitable use of by the Government. Then alone will the scheme really reach the Harijans and the other classes will certainly come in. The cheries and the living quarters of the Harijans to-day are a result of the economic conditions. Madras cheries may not have anomolies, because the high-class Harijans living there may be rich men. But there are poor Harijans all over the world. Merely making them live together with others will not solve the problem of untouchability; neither would it solve the problem of economic equality. It is true that there will be a casteless colony but that casteless colony in a place quite out of the way or by itself, without proper resources for these Harijans who go there will certainly fail. They cannot go and live there simply because they are to be non-caste colonies. People who are well enough will go. In fact I might apply for a site and go and live there if I choose because I have got the resources to live there. I therefore want the Government to look into this matter carefully. These are the only four items, Sir, upon which I wanted to speak.

“ I should also say something about other things, namely Public Health, but I purposely refrain from doing so. I have been sufficiently misunderstood in the past, and I do not want to be misunderstood now. Sir, I am a living exponent of the cult to which I belong. I have spent my life for it. I have studied Ayurvedha for five years. I have been at the service of the people as Health Minister. That is testimony to the cult I profess. For what I did I have been sufficiently abused in the past. I do not want to make myself more unpleasant. I therefore refrain from making any remark on the subject.”

* MRS. M. N. CLUBWALLA :—“ Mr. President, Sir, this is my first speech in the Council and I may be excused if I refer to my notes. 3-45 p.m.

“ In taking this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister and his Cabinet on the Budget, I may be permitted to make a few remarks on certain aspects of the Budget in the hope that they will receive consideration.

“ Though my interests are in the betterment of general conditions, I would like to emphasise the immediate need for a general recognition of equality between men and women based on the International Charter of Women's Rights. The President of the All-India Women's Conference and her colleagues have done admirable work on the concerned committees of the United Nations

[Mrs. M. N. Clubwalla] [6th August 1946]

and I hope that this recognition of women's equality will find expression in the various legislative and executive measures of the Government, as well as in all spheres—legal, economical, social and administrative appointments. Women have shown their ability and it is all for the welfare of the country to have more women representatives in national and international affairs.

“ Turning to the question of Public Health, I express the great pleasure of the women of this Presidency at the inclusion of a lady—my able and Hon. friend—as Minister in charge of Public Health. With reference to her portfolio, I would very much like to suggest the creation under it of a welfare directorate for which there is a great need. Signs of the awakening of social and civic consciousness in the latter few years are apparent all over the Presidency. It is most important that there should be a central body to seek co-operation with the different philanthropic and social organizations already existing and to preserve continuity of service and a bureau of potential workers.

“ The appalling figures of health and mortality—specially with reference to those pertaining to women and children are apparent. I cannot emphasise too strongly the imperative need for large numbers of Women's and Children's Clinics—both in rural and urban areas.

“ The nursing profession needs all the encouragement of Government. So far, the salaries of nurses are inadequate and I do hope that the nurses will be better paid and they will have better working conditions, so that a greater number of educated girls will enter this noble profession and be an asset to any national health planning scheme.

“ The Government and the public are aware of the work of Children's Aid Societies and Vigilance Homes. They are doing excellent work and our social set up will be bettered enormously by giving these bodies more financial assistance. But we certainly need many more Children's Aid Societies and Vigilance Homes in the Presidency, especially in the industrial areas. It is a great pity that children who are destitutes should be clubbed with children who are criminals and have to appear before Juvenile Courts and be sent to certified schools, and therefore, with special reference to this aspect, Children's Aid Societies should not come under the Jail department, but under the Educational department. The Vigilance Homes, I suggest, should come under the Public Health department.

“ Lastly, I refer to jail reform. This Presidency leads the rest of India in jail reform and the standard of administration is very high. But I would appeal to the Government to introduce greater jail reforms by accepting a new conception of the very purpose for which jails exist. As in some very radically advanced countries, jails should exist more as reformatories, moral and mental clinics than as places for punishment.

6th August 1946] [Mrs. M. N. Clubwalla]

“With reference to jail for women, we should have more industries even for short-term prisoners and there should be women lawyers attached to the women's section of jails to give help to those that may be in need of them. Sir, we have already started with a woman advocate in Madras and I hope it may spread to other jails.”

*SRI S. A. S. Rm. RAMANATHAN CHETTIYAR :—“கனம் தலைவர்வர்களே, இன்று நான் இங்கு வரும்போது (சட்ட சபைக்கு) அதிகாரிகளின் மனம் இன்னும் மாறவில்லை என்பது பற்றியும் லோகல் போர்டு சம்பந்தமாகவும் பேசலாமென்று வந்தேன். இன்று நடந்ததொரு சம்பவத்தைத் தெரிவிக்கிறேன். இன்று ஒரு பார்லிமென்ட் செக்ரிடரி ஆபீசுக்கு முதல் தரம் போய்ப் பார்த்தபோது, ஒரு ஐ.சி.எஸ். ஆபீசர் உள்ளே இருந்தார். நான் திரும்பி விட்டேன். அரை மணி கழித்து மறுபடியும் போனேன். அப்பொழுதும் அந்த அதிகாரி அங்கு இருந்தார். நான் பார்க்கப்போன செக்ரிடரி என்னைக் கூப்பிட்டார். நான் போனவுடன், உள்ளே இருந்த ஐ.சி.எஸ். ஆபீசர் என்ன சொல்லுகிறார் என்றால், ‘என்னை வெளியில் மனிதர் அனுப்பு’ என்று ஜூட் காட்டுகிறார். இதிலிருந்து என்ன தெரிகிறது! நம் தேசத்தில் ஐ.சி.எஸ். ஆபீசர்கள் மனம் இன்னும் கடுகளவு கூட மாறவில்லை. (சிரிப்பு.) இந்த தேசத்தில்தான் இப்பேற்ப்பட்ட சம்பவம் நடக்கிறதே தவிர மற்ற தேசங்களில் இப்படி நடக்கிறதில்லை. அலெம்பிளி, கவுன்கிளுக்குக் கட்டுப்படுத்தான் மற்ற தேசங்களில் அதிகாரிகள் நடப்பார்கள். வெகு காலமாக ஐ.சி.எஸ். ஆபீசர்களால் நாம் ஆளப்பட்டு வந்ததால் அவர்கள் இப்படி இருக்கிறார்கள். இதற்கு தகுந்த பரிசாரம் மந்திரியானவர்கள் என்ன செய்யவேண்டுமோ அதைச் செய்ய வேண்டும். போனதெல்லாம் போகட்டும். இனியாகிலும் ஐ.சி.எஸ். ஆபீசர்களிடம் ஜனங்கள் அவமானப்படுத்தப்படாமலும் கஷ்டப்படுத்தப்படாமலும் பார்த்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். எல்லா ஆபீசர்களும் அப்படி இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று நான் சொல்லவில்லை. ஒரு சிலர்தான் அப்படி இருக்கிறார்கள். நாமெல்லோரும் இந்தியர்கள்தான். சீமைக்குப் போய் வந்தாலும், அவர்களும் இந்தியர்கள்தான், இங்கேயுள்ளவர்களும் மனிதர்கள்தான். மிருகங்களல்ல. ஆபீசர்களே தாங்கள் நியாயமாகவும், மரியாதையாகவும் ஜனங்களிடம் நடக்கவேண்டுமென்று அவர்களே உணர்ந்து விட்டால் போதும். அதிகாரிகளுக்கு public servants என்று பேர்தான். தவிர அவர்கள் அதிகாரத்துக்கு வந்தவுடன் தாங்களே எஜமான்கள் என்று ஜபர்தஸ்தாக நினைத்துவிடுகிறார்கள். இனியாகிலும் அதிகாரிகள் ஜனங்களுடன் அந்நியோன்னியமாகப் பழகவேண்டும். அதிகாரிகள் நன்மை செய்தாலும் செய்யாவிட்டாலும் அதைப்பற்றிக் கவலையில்லை. அவர்கள் மரியாதையாகவும் இனிமையாகவும் ஜனங்களுடன் பேசவேண்டும். ஒரு இடத்தில் அதிகாரி ஒருவரைப் பார்க்கப்போனால் அவரிடம் 100 பேர் காத்திருக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் ஒவ்வொருவரும் 1,000, 10,000, 20,000 ஸர்க்காருக்கு வரிகொடுக்கிறவர்கள். மதுவிலக்குக்குப் பணமில்லை என்றால் வியாபாரிகள் தலையில் ஒரு பைசா, இரண்டு பைசா, 4 பைசா போடுகிறதென்று யோசிக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களை அதிகாரிகள் அநாவசியமாகக் காக்க வைக்கிறார்கள். இவர்கள் எஜமான் என்று அழைக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். நான் 6,000 ரூபாய் வரிகொடுக்கிறேன். ஜனங்கள் பணத்தில் சம்பளம் வாங்குகிறவன் ஜனங்களுக்கு எஜமானை? (சிரிப்பு.) இது அநியாயமாக இருக்கிறது! (சிரிப்பு.) I don't understand this எஜமானன். (மீண்டும் சிரிப்பு.) இதை தயவுசெய்து முதல் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கவனிக்க வேண்டுகிறேன். பம்பாயில் ஒரு உத்தரவு பிறந்திருக்கிறது. இது உங்களுக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். நான் சொல்ல வேண்டியதில்லை. போலீஸ் ஆபீசர்கள் ஜனங்களிடம் மரியாதையாக நடந்து கொள்ளவும், பழகவும் கற்றுக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்றும் ‘தாட் பூட்’ என்று ஆடம்பரமெல்லாம் செய்யக்கூடாதென்றும், மீறி நடந்தால் அதிகாரிகள் கட்டாயம் தண்டிக்கப் படுவார்களென்றும் பம்பாயில் உத்தரவு போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இங்கே (நமது மாகாணத்தில்) ஒரு விஷயமும் தெரியவில்லை. ஜனங்களின் சர்க்கார் வந்திருக்கிறது மந்திரிகள்

[Sri S. A. S. Rm. Ramanathan Chittiyar.] [6th August 1946]

வந்திருக்கிறார்கள், ஜனங்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யப்போகிறார்கள் என்றெல்லாம் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இதெல்லாமிருக்கட்டும். அதிகாரிகள் ஜனங்களைக் காக்க வைப்பதற்கு பதிலாக ஒருவரும் தங்களை வந்து பார்க்க வேண்டாமென்றும், 3 நாட்களுக்குள் பதில் அனுப்பப்படும் என்றும் உத்தரவு போட்டும். ஒருவரும் அதிகாரிகளை நேரில் வந்து பார்க்கமாட்டார்கள். இப்பொழுதுள்ள நிலையில் எவ்வளவு நாளைகளும் பதில் வருவதில்லை, அதிகாரிகள் மனப்போக்கு இப்படி இருக்கிறது! அதை இன்று என் கண்ணால் பார்த்தேன். 'என்னைப் பேசி வெளியில் போகச் சொல்' என்று ஒரு ஐ. லி. எஸ். அதிகாரி ஜாடை சொல்லுகிறார். (சிரிப்பு.) அவருக்கு என்ன அவசரமோ தெரியவில்லை. (சிரிப்பு.) அவர் யாருக்கோ சிபார்சுக்குத்தான். வந்திருக்கிற ரென்று ஊக்கிக் கொண்டு, சர்க்கார் வேலைக்காக வரவில்லை யென்று தெரிகிறது. (சிரிப்பு.) அந்த அதிகாரி இருந்து பேசவேண்டுமாம்! நான் மட்டும் வெளியில் போகவேண்டுமாம்! நான் சட்ட சபை மெம்பர். அவர் I.C.S. public servant. நீங்கள் (பிரதம மந்திரியைப் பார்த்து) என்ன செய்ய வேண்டுமோ அதைச் செய்யுங்கள்." (சிரிப்பு.)

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Licence க்காக போயிருப்பீர்கள்."

* SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAN CHETTIYAR:—"Licence க்காக நான் போகவில்லை ஏற்கனவே எனக்கு லைசென்ஸ்கள் இருக்கின்றன. (சிரிப்பு.) மந்திரிகளிடம் இது விஷயம் சொன்னால் போதும். அவர்கள் வேண்டியதைச் செய்வார்கள். பூர்ண நம்பிக்கை அவர்களிடம் எனக்கு இருக்கிறது. என் விஷயத்தை விடுங்கள் இனிமேல் யாரேனும் அதிகாரிகளிடம் போனால் போனவுடன் அவர்களைக் கூப்பிட்டு மரியாதையுடன் பேசுகிற பந்தாவில் இருந்தால் போதும். அதிகாரி செய்யட்டும், செய்யாமல் போகட்டும், அதைப்பற்றி ஒருவரும் கவலைப்படமாட்டார்கள். வேண்டுமெல்லாம் அதிகாரிகளின் மனமாறுதல்தான். இதற்காகவே இவ்வளவு தூரம் பேசினேன்."

"லோக்கப் போர்டு விஷயத்தில் எனக்கு 25 வருஷம் அனுபவமுண்டு. கொஞ்சம் விலஸ்தரமாகச் சொல்லுகிறேன். டயம் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். தாலுகா போர்டுகள் எல்லாம் முன்பு இருந்தன. தாலுகா போர்டு, ஜில்லா போர்டு மெம்பர்கள் வோட்டுக் கொடுத்துச் சட்டசபைக்கு வரவேண்டும். இப்போது எழுதப்பட்டிருக்கிற தனித் தவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் வோட்டுரிமை உண்டு. அந்தந்த தாலுகாவில் செய்யவேண்டிய நன்மைகள் என்ன வென்பதைத் தெரிந்தவர்கள் தாலுக்கா போர்டில் மெம்பராக இருந்தார். நிர்வாகம் திறமையாகவும் அனுபவ சாத்தியமாகவும் இருந்தது. இப்போது ஜில்லா போர்டு நிர்வாகம் பெருகிவிட்டது. உதாரணமாக ஒரு வாரத்தியார் 4 நாள் லீவ் வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டால், 5½ மாதம் கழித்து பதில் வந்திருக்கிறது. (சிரிப்பு.) கலியாணத்துக்கு போக 4 நாள் லீவ் கேட்டால், இப்படி இவ்வளவு நாள் கழித்து பதில் வந்தால் இந்த போர்டு இருந்தால் என்ன இல்லாமலிருந்தால் என்ன. (சிரிப்பு.) உதாரணமாக தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லா போர்டை எடுத்துக்கொள்வோம். சீர்காழி தஞ்சையிலிருந்து 50 மைலுக்கு மேல் இருக்கிறது. அறந்தாங்கி 50 மைலுக்கு மேல் இருக்கிறது. தஞ்சாவூரிலிருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு சீர்காழி, அறந்தாங்கி பக்கத்தில் என்ன நன்மைகள் வேண்டுமென்று தெரியாது. ஜில்லா போர்டு மெம்பர்கள் மீட்டிங்குக்கு வந்து, எஸ், எஸ், ரைட் என்று சொல்லி விட்டுப் போகிறார்கள். மெம்பர்களுக்கு பூரா விஷயம் தெரிந்துகொள்ள முடிகிறதில்லை. தாலுகா போர்டுகள் இருந்தால் தாலுகா போர்டு மெம்பர்களுக்கு தாலுகாவின் விஷயங்கள் நன்றாக தெரியவரும், வேண்டியதை உடனே செய்ய முடியும். தாலுகா போர்டு எடுக்கப்பட்டதிலிருந்து ஜனங்கள் ரொம்ப கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். தாலுகா போர்டு அவசியமாக இருக்கவேண்டும். தாலுகா போர்டு இருந்தால், ஜில்லா போர்டு தேவையில்லையென்று கூடச் சொல்லலாம். இப்போது தஞ்சாவூர் தாலுகா போர்டு இருந்தால், இங்கேயுள்ள பணம் அந்தத் தாலுகாவிலேயே இருக்கும், அறந்தாங்கிப் பணம் அங்கேயே இருக்கும். தஞ்சாவூரில் வருவாகும் பணத்தை கொண்டு போய் அறந்தாங்கிக்கு போட முடியாது. தாலுகா போர்டுகள் இருந்தால் அந்தந்த

6th August 1946] [Sri S. A. S. Rm. Ramanathan Chittiyar.]

தப் போர்டின் பணத்தை அந்தந்த போர்டே உபயோகப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளலாம். தாலாகா போர்டுகளை எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் அமைக்க முடியுமோ கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் அமைக்க வேண்டும். ஜில்லா போர்டு அனுவசியம். வீண் செலவு தான். மேல் அதிகாரியிடமிருந்து அந்த காலத்தில் ஒரு மாதத்துக்கு ஒரு ஜி.ஒ. வரும். அதில் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை மூடு என்றிருக்கும். அடுத்த மாதம் அந்த பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை திறக்கலாம் என்று ஜி.ஒ. வரும். (சிரிப்பு.) வாரத்துக்கு வாரம், மாதத்துக்கு மாதம் ஆர்டர் மாற்றினால் நிர்வாகம் எப்படி ஒழுங்காக இருக்கும் யோசியுங்கள்.

“கன் குடியைப் பற்றி எல்லோரும் சொன்னார்கள், நான் அதிகம் சொல்ல வேண்டிய தில்லை. போகிற போக்கைப் பார்க்கிற போது மந்திரிகள் அபிப்பிராயம் இந்த மாதிரி இருக்குமென்று நான் ஊக்கிக் கேறேன். இந்த வருஷம் 8 ஜில்லா; அடுத்த வருஷம் 16 ஜில்லா, முடியுமானால் எல்லா ஜில்லாக்களிலும் கொண்டு வரலாம், இல்லாவிட்டால் அதற்கு அடுத்த வருஷமாவது பூரண மதுவிலக்கு ஏற்படுத்தி விடலாம் என்று நினைக்கிறார்கள் போலும். இது நல்ல காரியம் தான். கோயமுத்தூர் ஜில்லாவில் மது விலக்கு ஏற்படுத்தினால் புண்ணியமில்லை, நீலகிரி ஜில்லாவையும் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். நீலகிரி பெரிய ஜில்லா இல்லை யென்றாலும் கால கோடி ரூபாய் அங்கே வருமானம் வருகிறது. ஒரு தம்படி வியாபாரி தலையில் வரியை உயர்த்தினால் 250 வீதம் சேர்ந்து விடுகிறது. கோடி கோடி என்கிறபோது லட்சம் ஒரு பிரமாத மில்லை. நீலகிரியை சேர்த்து நவக்கிரகமாகப் பண்ணினால் நன்றாக இருக்கும். (சிரிப்பு.)

“கதர் விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் நல்ல காரியம் செய்ய வேண்டியதவசியம். கூடுமான வரையில் கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கதர் உற்பத்தி செய்து, அதில் வியாபாரம் பண்ணி அதிலேயே உழன்று கிடக்கிறவர்களையும் ஜெயிலுக்குப் போய் தியாகம் செய்து விட்டு வந்திருக்கிறவர்களையும் அழைத்து அவர்களிடம் பொறுப்பாக விடவேண்டும். இவர்களுக்கு 1,000, 2,000 சம்பளம் கொடுக்க வேண்டியதில்லை. இது மந்திரிகளுக்கு தெரியாத தல்ல, ரூபகப்படுத்துகிறேன். கதருக்காக உழைத்தவர்கள் ரொம்ப பேர் இருக்கிறார்கள். தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் பெரிய பணக்காரர்கள், 10 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய்க்கு நில்ல்களிருக்கக்கூடியவர்களிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு கதரை பற்றித்தான் எப்பொழுதும் ரூபகம். நீடாமங்கலம், மன்னார்குடி பகுதியில் சம்பளமில்லாமல் அவர்களை பார்த்துக்கொள்ளு வார்கள். அந்தந்த ஜில்லாக்களில் கதர் வேலையில் சம்பந்தப்பட்டவர்களை போட்டால் செலவு சுருக்கமாயும், அதிக அபிவிருத்தியாயும் நடக்கும் என்று நினைக்கிறேன்.

“கிண்டி குதிரைப் பந்தையம், ஜனங்களைப் பாழாக்குகிறது. இதை எடுக்க மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கு அதிகாரம் இருக்கிறதா? இல்லையா? சொல்லுங்கள். (சிரிப்பு.) இல்லை என்று சொன்னால் ஒரு சம்பவத்தை சொல்லுகிறேன். மதுரையில் துளவிராம் முனிசிபல் சேர்மெனாக இருந்தார். மதுரை ரயில்வே ஸ்டேஷனிலுள்ள பாலத்தின் மேல் கவரிங் இல்லாததால் வெயில் தாங்கமுடியாமல் ஒரு கர்ப்பிணி விழுந்து செத்துப் போனாள். உடனே துளவிராம் ரயில்வே அதிகாரிகளுக்கு நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்து, உடனே கவரிங் போடும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்தார். தாட்சண்யப்படவில்லை. அதி காரத்தை பொது ஜன நன்மையைக் கருதி அந்தக் காலத்தில் ரொம்ப தைரியத்துடன் உபயோகித்தார். எதிர்ப்பு இருக்கும் எதிர்ப்பை எதிர்க்கத் தைரியம்தான் வேண்டும். பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்கள் கிண்டி குதிரைப் பந்தையத்தை எடுத்து விடவேண்டுமென்று உத்தரவு போட்டால் தன்னால் போய்விடுகிறது. (சிரிப்பு.) எடுக்கலாமா வேண்டாமா என்று காரணம் எல்லாம் கேட்பார்கள். ஆட்சேபணைகளைக் கிளப்புவார்கள். சும்மா எடுத்தால் எடுக்கலாம். (சிரிப்பு.) சொல்லவேண்டுமா இது மந்திரிகளுக்குத் தெரியாதா? அவர்களாக எல்லாம் செய்தாலும் நான் சொல்ல கடமைப் பட்டிருப்பதால் சொல்லுகிறேன். கிண்டி குதிரைப் பந்தையத்தை சீக்கிரம் எடுத்தால் அதனால் ஏற்படுகிற புண்ணியமும் லாபமும், நல்ல பெயரும் புகழும் கனம் மந்திரிகளுக்கு இவ்வளவு அவ்வளவுவென்று சொல்ல முடியும், எவ்வளவோ குடும்பங்களில் சம்சாரத்தின் தாலி அடகுக்குக் கொண்டு வைத்து குதிரைப் பந்தையத்தில் கொண்டு போய் கொடுக்கிறார்

[Sri S. A. S. Rm. Ramanathan Chettiyar.] [6th August 1946]

கள். கள் குடிக்கின்றதை விட குதிரை பந்தயம் மோசம். குதிரை பந்தயத்தில் அதிக ரூபாய் வந்தால், அதையும் சேர்த்து அதிக மாக குடிக்கலாமென்று குடிக்காரர்கள் நினைக்கிறார்கள். (சிரிப்பு.) தயவு செய்து எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் குதிரைப் பந்தயத்தை ஒழிக்க முடியுமோ அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரத்தில் ஒழிக்க வேண்டும். முடியுமானால் அடுத்த நிமிஷம் எடுத்தாலும் கோடான கோடி புண்ணியமுண்டு. (சிரிப்பு.) மக்களின் நல்வாழ்த்துக்களும் கிடைக்கும். பிரதம மந்திரி இதை செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“கனம் மராமத்து இலாகா மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லுகிறேன். தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவுக்கும் தென் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லாவுக்கும் மத்தியில் ஏற்கனவே கொள்ளிடம் பாலமிருந்தது. இது இடிந்து போய் விட்டது. 1914-ம் வருஷம் யுத்தம் வந்த பிறகு இதற்கு ஒரு பாலம் போட யத்தனப்பட்டார்கள். தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லா போர்டுக்கும், தென் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லா போர்டுக்கும் செலவு விஷயமாகத் தகராறு ஏற்பட்டதால் பாலம் கட்டுவது நின்று போய்விட்டது. இப்பொழுது எப்படியாவது இந்த பாலத்தை போட்டால் சென்னையிலிருந்து நாகப்பட்டணத்துக்கு டிரங்கு ரோடு போட ரொம்ப செளகரியமாக இருக்கும். இந்தப் பாலம் இருந்தால் ரொம்ப ஷார்ட் கட்சூக இருக்கும். யார் கொடுத்தாலும் சரி யார் செய்தாலும் சரி, இந்தப் பாலம் கட்டப்பட வேண்டும். இதையும் மராமத்து இலாகா மந்திரி கவனிக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

4 p.m.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—‘Mr. President, Sir, the budget that has been presented to us by the Hon. the Prime Minister deserves encomiums on every side of the House. During the short period at his disposal, the Premier has succeeded in bringing into the picture solid support for the underdog, the unemployed and the underemployed. The creation of a four-crore fund for Harijan uplift, village rehabilitation and cottage industries will serve a noble cause.’

“As a villager and more than that as a cultivating ryot, I know and I partake in a rural life that is full of under-fed humanity. Except for a few pattadars, the rest are famished, unemployed or underemployed.

“Mahatma Gandhi laboured for over two decades to lift this downtrodden humanity to the level of the civilized human beings minimum fed, minimum clothed and minimum housed. His great efforts in this direction can reach fruition, if the present programmes envisaged in the Budget are implemented. The present Budget keeps the idealism of Gandhi before its mind's eye, and tries to bring its benefits within the reach of the common man.

“Coming next to the daily problem of the ryot, I would like to say a few words about his lot. He is ground between the money-lender and the superior landlord, let it be the zamindar, or a rich ryotwari pattadar. I am glad, Sir, that the Government have instituted an enquiry into the various kinds of tenures and I am certain that they would place on the statute book a legislation that would better the present position of the real cultivating ryot. The zamindar, let me tell you, Sir, is a suction pump that will suck the outturn of the poor ryots and discharge it far away from the confines of his estate, in European style houses, gymkhanas, races, and clubs not to mention Clubwalahs. He is not at all interested in the ryot. Neither irrigation tanks were repaired by him nor the channels. It is an outmoded system which has outlived even its allega

6th August 1946] [Sri T. Purushotham]

role in rural economy. It deserves to be abolished now and now alone.

"Then Sir, I come to Irrigation. I read with interest the statement made in the other House by the Hon. Minister for Public Works. It is a sound policy to care for the outturn of social welfare when an irrigation work has to be planned and executed than to think in terms of mathematical and financial returns. I do hope the Hon. Minister will evolve a new programme that will harness every flowing stream of importance and renovate the dilapidated irrigation tanks. I do not wish to take much of the time of the House by enumerating the needs of my constituency but I would request the Hon. Minister through you, Sir, to bring into existence a machinery that would pool together such needs as members or the voters demand of this popular Government.

"Before concluding, Sir, I would like to place before the Government an important local grievance. The taluk of Razole of which I am a resident, is not only cut off from the main land on either side by the branches of the river Godavari but in addition is cut off again across itself by another and a wide branch of the river Godavari. The headquarters of the Razole taluk is situated in one bit and is beyond the easy reach of the residents of the other bit covered by the Kothapeta Deputy Tahsildar's division.

"The Government recognized the difficulty and located the Deputy Tahsildar's headquarters at Kothapeta. But for all treasury purposes, i.e., transactions such as to pay a challan, cash a cheque, etc., one has to travel a long and inconvenient distance.

"You can appreciate our difficulty, Sir, if I inform you that the Razole taluk stretches alongside the Vasista Godavari for a distance of sixty and odd miles. My present request, Sir, is a simple one. I would request the Government to locate a sub-treasury at Kothapeta and make the Deputy Tahsildar's division into what is called technically an independent jurisdiction. This arrangement, I am sure, will not involve much additional cost to the Government but would mitigate the difficulties of the ryots of 54 villages with a population of over one lakh and a quarter.

"I hope, Sir, that there would be no need for me to repeat this question at the time of the next budget and once more congratulating the Hon. the Premier, I beg to resume my seat."

* S. K. SHAIK ROWTHER SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. the Premier on having presented a comprehensive Budget and on his efforts to improve the lot of the people of this Presidency. No doubt, the Budget contains certain bold features, but its success in practice is yet to be seen. Large amounts have been allotted for khadi production and for Harijan uplift, but the amounts allotted for more important heads such as Irrigation and Education, are very inadequate. The short-sighted policy of the previous Government and their indifference to the improvement of the irrigation schemes are the main causes which created the present critical situation, in our presidency as regards the food problem of the presidency. They ought to have undertaken big irrigation schemes by constructing anicuts and reservoirs

[S. K. Shaik Rowther Sahib Bahadur] [6th August 1946]

in all the districts for the storage of water for the successful cultivation of paddy and other foodstuffs. The previous Governments made us entirely dependant in the matter of food on foreign countries like Burma and Siam. I hope the present Government will take immediate steps to undertake big irrigation schemes in all the districts by constructing reservoirs and anicuts for the storage of surplus water during the monsoon to ensure the successful cultivation of paddy and other foodstuffs; otherwise, you will be confronted with a worst situation in the future.

“ Sir, necessary and urgent steps should also be taken to bring in all waste lands under the plough and thereby ensure the people of this Presidency to be self-sufficient in the matter of food instead of depending on other countries.

“ So far as the district of Malabar is concerned, no provision has been made in the Budget even for a single irrigation scheme, though two schemes have been prepared by the Advisers' Government. Sir, there is an erroneous impression among the people outside Malabar that Malabar requires no irrigation projects since there is plenty of rain there. It is no doubt a fact that Malabar gets plenty of rain during the south-west monsoon but it must be remembered that the surplus water goes to the sea, as there are no reservoirs to store surplus water and to use it for the second crop. Since there are no reservoirs in Malabar we have to depend entirely on the north-east monsoon for the second crop. In case the north-east monsoon is weak, the second crop in Malabar will be a complete failure. Sir, in order to ensure successful second crop in Malabar, the Government should undertake the construction of anicuts and reservoirs there, and include in a supplementary budget or in the revised budget necessary amounts required for undertaking the two schemes prepared by the Advisers' Government.

“ Sir, coming to the problem of cloth which is as important as food, I would like to say a few words. We all know that owing to the war, the import of foreign cloth was completely stopped and whatever was produced by the mills in the Presidency, a major portion of it, was consumed for military requirements, and a portion of it was exported to the other provinces, leaving only a very small portion for the consumption of the people of this province. Hence shortage in cloth. The Madras Presidency produces large quantities of cotton and the mills also produce the requisite quantity of yarn. According to statistics taken in 1944, there are 59 spinning mills in our province and they produce sufficient quantity of yarn for the manufacture of cloth both by handlooms and powerlooms. The quantity of yarn produced by these mills comes to about 50,000 bales, out of which about 40,000 have been made available for the manufacture of cloth providing sufficient work for the powerlooms and handlooms in the Presidency.

“ Sir, unfortunately for Madras, the Provincial Textile Commissioner of Bombay introduced in 1945 an all-India yarn distribution scheme under which the quota of yarn for the Madras Presidency was reduced by half, and the remaining half was to be exported to other provinces. This caused considerable difficulty for the

6th August 1946] [S. K. Shaik Rowther Sahib Bahadur]

people of Madras, but this arrangement was accepted by the Central Government, and the Advisers' Government did not object to that. I therefore request the present Government to negotiate with the Central Government about that and see that no yarn produced in this province is exported to outside places, and that the necessary quantity of yarn required for use by our mills and handlooms is retained in this province itself. By this method, the problem of cloth also will be solved to a very great extent.

" Sir, as a Muslim I support the Prohibition policy of the Government, but I am against the introduction of prohibition in all the districts at a stretch, since we have to take into consideration the financial aspect of the question also. However, I am glad that the Government proposal is to complete prohibition within a period of three years.

" Lastly, Sir, I have to say a few words about Education. The amount allotted under this head is very small. The salary of the elementary school teachers is very low and the proposed increment of Rs. 2 is not at all sufficient. I suggest that compulsory education should be introduced especially in Muslim elementary schools in Malabar since the parents of the Muslim students are very indifferent about the education of their children.

" In the Moplah elementary schools in Malabar religious instruction is given to students through the Molla teachers and they are given a ridiculously low amount of Rs. 5 per month without any dearness allowance. I therefore suggest that the salaries of these Mollas are increased and also war allowance granted as given to other teachers.

" Lastly, I suggest that all M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. in the districts may be asked to serve in the municipal councils and local boards as they have been asked to be put in the taluk food and cloth committees, so that they may form a link between the local bodies and the Legislatures. With these words, I resume my seat."

* MR. PRESIDENT :—" I see there are not many members desirous of speaking to-day. I therefore adjourn the House to meet again at 11 a.m. to-morrow."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Wednesday the 7th August 1946.

V.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

- (1) *Appropriation Accounts, 1944-45 and the Audit Report, 1946.*
- (2) *Finance Accounts, 1944-45 and the Audit Report, 1945.*